

Our Intention to Receive and Obey Scripture
Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction: Last week we looked at Psalm 119 and were challenged to make it our intention to “engage” Scripture. The psalmist declared things like, “I will delight in your commandments,” and “I will meditate on your statutes.” In this study we are going to continue to look at “intention.” But today we are looking at not just the intention to engage the Scriptures, but as well to make it our intention to receive and obey Scripture.

Opening Question: For those who are doing it, how has your reading in Matthew been going?

Read Matthew 7:24-27

1. What is the context of this teaching from Jesus?
2. How would you compare and contrast the two men in this parable? How are they alike? How are they different?
3. How do you think this teaching might have struck Jesus' hearers after all that he had just taught?
4. Read Ezra 7:10 and Hebrews 5:11-14. What do these passages add to our understanding of how important it is to put into practice Jesus' commands?

Steve said:

Jesus says that when it comes to our lives, the foundational issue is whether or not we are “acting on” or “putting into practice” the things He has taught. This is an extraordinary claim to make – that putting into practice His teachings was the determining factor in whether or not we stand strong or fall. ***The strength and stability of our lives is a function of whether or not we put into practice the teachings of Jesus.***

5. Do you agree that the strength and stability of our lives is a function of whether or not we put into practice the teachings of Jesus? Why or why not?

6. What are some ways that you've experienced this truth in your own life or seen it in the lives of people you know?

Steve said:

Some of you here this morning are ready to engage your will and make it your intention to receive and obey the Scriptures. Everything I've said this morning makes sense, God has been preparing your heart, and you're thinking, "Of course I should intend to obey the Scriptures. . . I don't want to build my house on the sand. . ." But others of you may honestly not be at that place **for a variety of reasons**. Before you can make it your intention to obey whatever you find in Scripture, you need to address some deeper issues.

7. What, if anything, is hindering you from an unconditional commitment to obey whatever God shows you in His Word?

Steve said:

Day after day every single one of us is building a house. And we are each building our house on the sand or on the rock; we are either hearing and putting into practice what Jesus teaches or we are ignoring what Jesus teaches.

8. What would you say about how well you are building your house?
9. What, if anything, needs to change for you to more consistently build on the rock?