



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 09.02.2018

Recap:

- An important prayer in the Old Testament is the Shema, which includes one of the commandments that Jesus says is most important and also extols the Israelites to “Hear.”
- Just because you are hearing doesn’t mean you are listening.
- In Jesus’ time, the Israelites had a concrete temple and rules that were the foundation of their faith. Jesus said that, for many, their lives did not reflect the teachings of the passages they memorized and had rules they talked about, but their lives did not reflect the teachings.
- Jesus came to institute a faith of becoming as opposed to a faith of knowledge.
- If we truly hear and begin to live like Jesus teaches we will show the world a radical, generous faith will change us and the world around us in ways we could never even begin to imagine.

Discuss:

- On Sunday, Ryan shared a family story about mishearing. Do you have any stories about mishearing to share?
- Read Matthew 7:24-27
- How is building a house on the sand tempting?
- Thinking symbolically, when Jesus says that both men are building houses, what do you think he means?
- How is the image of building a house upon rock versus the sand a great image for explaining foolishness in hearing Jesus’ words and not putting them to practice?
- Read Matthew 16:15-18
- What do you think is the connection of pairing the image of the wise man building his house on the rock with the church being built upon a rock?
- Read Matthew 24:1-2
- How do you think Jesus would say his church is different from the buildings of the temple?
- James 1:22-25
- What do you think are some ways that you can become a better listener to Jesus’ teachings and God’s will?
- At the end of the Sermon on the Mount series, is there anything in particular that will stick with you? Are there any changes you are seeing in your life or how you view the world?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Listening

- Proverbs 8:32-35
- Psalm 81
- Matthew 13:9-16