

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: March 30, 2025

SERIES: Sermon on the Mount

SERMON: Keep Digging

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7: 13-29 (NASB 1995)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Galatians 5:19-23; Amos 7:8

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: You can't have the blessing of an above ground house without doing the below ground digging.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Wide gates and broad ways represent the easy ways of life void of Jesus.
- Narrow gates and narrow ways represent the cost of following Jesus. The narrow gates and ways lead to life.
- Costs of Following Jesus
 - You're required to live an "others first" life. (Luke 9:23)
 - It requires commitment and potential loss of things of this world. (Luke 14:28-33)
 - You can face division and persecution. (Matthew 10:34)
 - You'll have to make the choice to put Christ first. (Matthew 10:37-39)
- The call to discipleship is a call to a radical commitment that may involve suffering, loss, and even martyrdom.
- Two "litmus test" questions on which "way" you're following: 1) Has your faith cost you anything? 2) Have you noticed changes in your life?
- False Teachers: The closer you examine a "false prophet," the more you will see the hypocrisy in their character and teachings.
- If your "tree" (heart) is in line with Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, then you'll be on that narrow path that leads to life. But if your "tree" (heart) is in line with those like the false teachers, you'll be on that wide path that leads to destruction.
- What you do cannot be separated from what you believe. It all comes back to obedience – loving God, loving others.
- We must always remember that a profession of faith will always be tested by God.
- House Building: The starting place is the same. The "doing" is different.
- If you don't dig down to the rock, your house will crash because you haven't built on a firm foundation.
- The obedient person puts the word of God into practice.

(ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

- It's the consistent digging that gets you to the foundation.
- Being a wise, doer of the word means that you put God's word into practice...you dig.
- Once you hit the rock, you have a foundation, and you build up from there.
- Building on a firm foundation requires three things:
 - 1) You must have a vision of whom you want to become as you build.
 - 2) You must dig down before you build up.
 - 3) You must dig deep to get a firm foundation.
- Anything worth having requires digging.

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore." (Amos 7:8)

- A plumb line is a standard bearer in construction, ensuring walls are made straight and correct. Biblically, it's also a standard bearer in a culture.
- God's standards are high. There are repercussions when we don't build according to His code.
- God has provided His plumb line - the Bible - as a standard from which to take your measurements as you build your house.

CHALLENGE: Take time to assess your foundation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How did Kip's main idea in his message challenge you?
- What do the broad and narrow ways represent?
- What makes the narrow way difficult? Why is it difficult to find?
- What makes the broad way easy? Why do so many people choose it?
- How would one "enter" the narrow gate? After he enters is the way difficult or easy? What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple?
- Why would someone who says, "Lord, Lord" not enter the kingdom of heaven?
- How does verse 22 show us that works cannot save us?
- What is the will of the Father? How can we "do" it?
- Kip spent a lot of time talking about building a firm foundation in your life. Have you ever struggled with that? How did you get through it? (Or are you still struggling?)
- Discuss the three requirements for building a firm foundation.
- How do you build your life according to "code"?
- What's "God's plumb-line"?
- What was your greatest takeaway in the Sermon on the Mount series?

Bible Hub (The Cost of Following Jesus found on the internet at [Topical Bible: Cost of Following Jesus](#)); **Jason Dexter** (Study and Obey bible studies online); **Life Application Study Bible** (Matthew); **Charles Swindoll** (Matthew 1-15 New Testament Commentary); **Warren Wiersbe** (New Testament Commentary); **Dallas Willard** (The Divine Conspiracy).