

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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THE THREE C'S OF LIFE

Matthew 7:21–27

Life is filled with challenges, choices, and consequences. Sometimes challenges come as an opportunity or as a temptation. If I make the right choice, it will result in a blessing. If I make the wrong choice, that will result in consequences. The Bible is filled with stories of men and women that made right and wrong choices.

In today's lesson, Christ illustrates with the parable of the wheat and the tares that whenever there is the real there is the false. There are real believers and fake believers. Whenever there is the true, the imitation is close by.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Just because you say “Lord, Lord,” it does not necessarily mean you are a true believer.** These people seem to be deeply religious with more than a passing profession of faith. They call Him God, but they are not true believers. These people have passion, but they are not real believers. Their profession of faith is public. They didn't hide their belief.
2. **Miracles alone are not evidence of true faith.** Surely they must be believers if miracles are being performed, right? Not necessarily. Did you know that the devil can imitate certain miracles? They are not real miracles. They are imitation miracles. There can be false miracles. In fact, the Bible even tells us, “When Antichrist comes he will be able to perform lying wonders.”
3. **If you are a real Christian, you will show it in the way you live.** There is a difference between someone who stumbles and sins and repents, and the person who willfully sins without any desire to change from that sinful lifestyle. Christ is talking about that person.
4. **Real Christians will build their life on the right foundation.** Jesus illustrates this. Two men build the same house. They have the same floorplan. They have the same landscaping. Here is the difference. One is built on a good foundation. The other is built on a bad foundation. The foundation can make all the difference in the world.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Build your foundation on Jesus Christ. He is the one who will sustain you. Don't build your foundation on a pastor or on your marriage. Build your foundation on Christ because if you don't you will not be sustained when tough times come.
- Sometimes when people go through hardship, they will turn away from God. When you go through hardship it will show what you are really made of. Character is not made in crisis—it is revealed.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Have you made bad choices? Have you done things you should have never done? Or have you wasted years of your life? Stop and think about the fact that God made the choice to send Jesus to be born, and Jesus made the choice to come to earth. Don't forget that a decision was made in the counsels of eternity that Jesus die on the cross for the sin of the world. The Bible says, "He was slain from the foundation of the earth." Way before we sinned Jesus already made preparation. He already decided He was going to do what needed to be done so we could be made right with God.