

## Small Group/Sermon Notes for The Greatest Sermon Ever: Part 8

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Part 8: Houses on Sand.**
- **Matthew 7:12-27.**
  - **V12:** Nice bottom line verse!
  - **V13-14:** The narrow road.
    - If everyone else is doing it, that doesn't mean it is ok!
    - Following Jesus is not about following the crowd. Far from it.
      - This is true of the 'church' crowd as well.
    - I believe this is referring to both fronts from "The War" series.
  - **V15-20:** Watch out for false prophets.
    - Look at the fruit not the flash.
    - Implications regarding Houses on Sand.
  - **V21-23:** Very strong.
    - These were religious people but not moral people. (false prophets?)
    - Jesus is looking for the whole package: devoted and faithful, morally upstanding, spiritually attune to God.
    - Implications regarding Houses on Sand.
  - **V24-27:** The big finish.
    - This shows perhaps the greatest conceptual or theological error in modern Christianity: The assumption that we can ignore the council of God but still receive all the blessings.
      - What is the promise from Jesus for those who "hear" but don't "do"?
      - So, don't get mad at God when this happens!!!
- Jesus talks about two types of builders. People seem to think there is a third.
  - Builder One: House on Sand. This person hears but doesn't do.
    - House crashes. Which means their life falls apart.
  - Builder Two: House on Rock. This person hears and also does.
    - House stands. Which means their life doesn't fall apart even when tragedy strikes.
  - Builder Three: Made up. This person hears, believes, but doesn't do.
    - Since they "believe" they get the benefits without having to actually follow the teachings of Jesus! This is nonsense.
    - For ex: Jesus said "Watch out for false prophets."
      - Can you believe and not watch out for false prophets?
        - No! That's just a House on Sand!
- Now don't get all legalistic, but let's believe God's ways are good for you and me and endeavor to put them into practice! What does that look like? Well, from this series:
  - As we look, ask: How could ignoring this teaching cause my life to fall apart?
    - Have a beatitude attitude.
    - Love your fellow Christian. Love your enemy and pray for them.
    - Be true to your spouse in your mind.
    - Be truthful.
    - Serve God to serve God. Not to impress or manipulate people.
    - Don't serve money.
    - Don't worry but trust in God's ways and God's provision.
    - Don't judge others but self-evaluate first.
    - Ask, seek, and knock according to God's will.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!