

Gospel Reflection

In the middle of today's Gospel passage, Jesus speaks of "[e]veryone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them" (Matthew 7:24). But he is not merely referring to his previous dire warning about those who cry "Lord, Lord" not necessarily entering into the kingdom. He is referring to the entire stretch of teaching we know as the "Sermon on the Mount" – the Gospel readings that we have been listening to for the past five Sundays. These include some of the best-known, most-loved, and "toughest teachings" portions of the Gospels: the Beatitudes, be reconciled before you bring your gift to the altar, love your enemies, consider the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, and today's conclusion with the houses built on sand and on rock. The evangelist Matthew uses this protracted sermon (which comes from a mountain, like Israel's commandments) to portray Jesus as rabbi, as teacher, to the new Israel, the early Christian community. It is to *all* these words that Jesus refers. And it is *all* of these words that we must listen to . . . and act upon.

The Sermon on the Mount is a compendium of what it means to live the will of God on earth, as it is in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus concludes this teaching with a "sneak preview" of the last day, when we will find out it is not merely enough to cry "Lord, Lord" or to speak or act continually with the name of Jesus on our lips. Jesus addresses one of the issues that has occupied and divided Christianity for generations: faith and action. Jesus affirms that we cannot separate the two. Our relationship with God is like our relationship with anyone we love. It is not enough merely to repeat their names over and over, or to say "I love you" again and again. Day by day, we have to live out that love in action; saying the names of loved ones and saying "I love you" will happen as part of this, but it is not enough by itself. If we truly love God's will and heed Jesus' teachings about what it means to let God's will reign in our lives, then our lives will be built on a solid foundation, and we will – on that last day – be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 7:21-27

I P B N H D A B B B S M S
 V R H O U S E F L D H N Y
 P O J C P D Z I E L O O C
 A P M O O Z L E D M Y V N
 Y H E V I L D O E R S T D
 W E E P D Y L D R A Q R A
 J S X U T N S A I D I C L
 M Y Z H N P A N P V T N U
 M Y G N E F X S E S U H R
 E I N A V A Z O C T E N Y
 M R V M A Z U U R N S D Y
 U F G E E T M O D G N I K
 X S I V H K C O R X T G L

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ACTS	COLLAPSED	DEMONS
DRIVE OUT	EVILDOERS	HEAVEN
HOUSE	KINGDOM	LISTENS
LORD	MIGHTY DEEDS	NAME
PROPHECY	ROCK	SAND

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6/1/2008*

*Matthew 7:21-27
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 7:21-27*

The Gospel according to Matthew

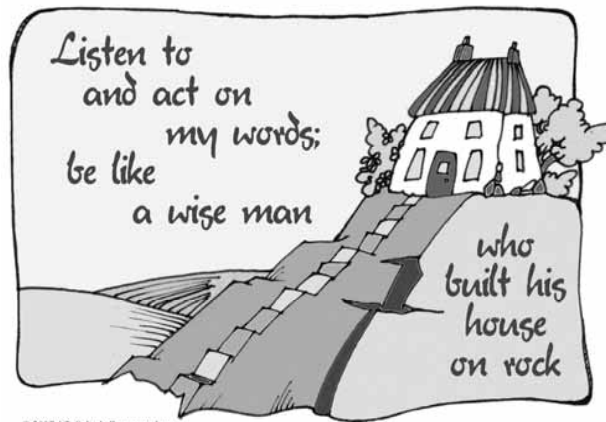
Jesus said to his disciples: "Not **everyone who says** to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me**, you evildoers.'

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted his house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

"everyone who says": this refers to false prophets who work miracles in Jesus' name while leading evil lives. This theme is a theme that recurs throughout Matthew's Gospel.

"Depart from me": Jesus is quoting Psalm 6:8

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- When is Jesus' word like a rock in my life?
- What hinders me from putting Jesus' word into practice?
- What is the next step toward my building my life more completely on the rock of Jesus' word?

Closing Prayer

Father,

Your love never fails. In your mercy, hear our call, keep us from danger, and provide for all our needs. Grant this, we pray, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time