

BEECHWOOD HILLS

2008

HIGH GROUND LUKE 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW FIVE THUR SEVEN Lesson one

In Luke fourteen, verse 8-11, Jesus tells a wonderful story about a man that was invited to a wedding feast. As the man enters the feast he is wondering where he should be seated. Should he go up front and set himself in a place of honor or should he set in the back? To answer the man's dilemma Jesus said, "*But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, FRIEND, GO UP HIGHER.*" Lk14: 10 that would be an honor, to have the host of the feast come to you and invite you to a higher place at his table.

In truth this is what Jesus has done for you and I. In His word He invites all of mankind to feast upon the riches of His truth, grace, wisdom, etc. But we must first humble ourselves in His presents by being submissive to His teachings. Then, (like the man in the parable) we are invited to "go higher". Jesus invites us to a higher standard of living. In our thoughts, and action, Jesus calls to us to "HIGHER GROUND. Wherever we are in our spiritual growth, Jesus says to us, "friend go up higher".

In the examples listed below we can see that God has always called His followers to HIGHER GROUND:

- Noah's Ark resting on the mountains of Ararat: Gen. 8:4
- Abraham & Isaac went to a mount to make sacrifice: Gen. 22:14
- Moses receiving the Law from Mt. Sinai: Ex. 19:20
- Jesus and three of His disciples on the Mt. Of Transfiguration: Matt. 17:1,2
- The last Passover feast of our Lord was held in a upper room: Mk. 14:15
- Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: Matt. 5:1 (The principles taught in this sermon will be the focus of this week at camp.)
- This principal was shown in the life of Jesus: Philp. 2:4-11

NOTE: The Apostles to the early church also proclaim the call by God to His children to “HIGHER GROUND”.

- Philp. 3:14 “upward call”
- Col. 3:1,2 “seek those things that are above”
- Heb. 12:22 “you have come to Mt. Zion:

God calls His children to an elevated level of thought and service. God’s children are called to a higher purpose, a higher sense of service and worship. As we study the Sermon on the Mount, we will see the principles that we are called to live. In so doing we are striving for that “HIGHER GROUND”.

“FRIEND, GO UP HIGHER”

- ❖ When the man arrived at the wedding feast in LK. 14: 8-10, what was the “best seat in the house”?

WHY?

- ❖ How did the master of the feast show honor to his guest?

WHY?

- ❖ What does Paul mean in Colossians 3:1,2 when he instructs his readers to, “seek those things that are above”?

EXPLAIN?

- ❖ According to what we are able to learn in Philippians 2:8,9, what did God do for His Son after He humbled Himself?

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LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5-7

LESSON TWO

ADDITUDE OR BEATITUDE??

MATT. 5:1-12

In Matthew 5:1-12 Jesus begins this wonderful sermon by giving His students a listing of “beatitudes”. What is beatitude? Quite simply, it is the attitude that our Lord would want us to be. If you will notice, each beatitude starts with the word blessed (or happy) is the one that lives these beatitudes in their life.

Listed below are the beatitudes and there meaning. Talk about how each one is a benefit to us. Also discuss the opposite “attitude” and how it can be harmful to us.. For example: “Blessed are the poor in spirit” is the first beatitude. To be “poor in spirit” is to think less of one's self, humble, content in whatever God gives us. Having this humble mindset helps us to receive instruction and be willing to serve our God and our fellow man. The opposite of being “poor in spirit” is the prideful and self-seeking attitude.

NOTE: BEATITUDES brings happiness and a higher level of service. ADDITUDES bring a lonely heart and hinder our walk with God.

(THE BEATITUDES)

- **“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted”**
(These are the people that are sad because of sin in their life, and in the world. They will be able to find comfort in Jesus)
 1. How does this help us?
 2. What is the Opposite of this beatitude?

- **“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth”.** (Meek people are not weak people, they are gentle towards all men, but strong in the ways of the Lord).
 1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?

2. What is the opposite of this beatitude?

➤ **“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”.**(These are people who have a great desire for learning and living the things of Christ).

1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?
2. What is the opposite of this beatitude?

➤ **“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy”.** (Merciful people are those that have compassion on the souls of others and try to help them.)

1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?
- 2.** What is the opposite of this beatitude?

➤ **“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.** (The pure in heart love God, and want only good and honest things to be in their heart and mind).

1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?
2. What is the opposite of this beatitude?

➤ **“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.** (These are people that try to resolve conflict by peaceful means, they try to live peaceable with all men).

1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?
2. What is the opposite of the beatitude?

➤ **“Blessed are those that are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall hate you, and treat you badly for Jesus sake”.** (This is to be treated badly by others because of ones faith in Jesus.)

1. How does this beatitude bring us to higher ground?
2. What is the opposite of this beatitude?

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HIGHER GROUND

LK. 14:10

LESSON FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5 – 7 LESSON 3

INFLUENCE OR INFLUENCED? MATT. 5:13-37

The question we are studying in this lesson is; “Are you influencing the world around you? OR are you being influenced by the world?” In Matt. 5: 13-16 Jesus says His followers are “the salt of the earth” and light of the world”. Jesus is talking about our influence. Like salt, Christians should have a persuring influence with those they come in contact. Like light, Christians should illuminate the traits of Jesus’ life. Once again we are talking about choice. Do I live a life that positively influences others OR Do I choose to be influenced by others?

Listed below are three examples of areas in our life that Jesus wants us to be “influencing” others. Yet these same areas are very changing to us. Sometimes it is easy to be the one being influenced. Jesus calls His followers to true righteousness in Matt. 5:17-20. The following are areas that Jesus is calling us to “true righteousness”. Striving to live by Jesus’ higher level of righteousness, we can be a wonderful influence to the world.

- Matt. 5: 21,22 Murder
- Matt. 5: 23-25 keeping our heart free of hate.
- Matt. 5: 27-33 Morale Issues

NOTE: We cannot begin to deal with these issues without having the proper ”Beatitudes in our life. Also when talking about the “morale issues,” be sensitive to the age of your class.

(INFLUENCING)

- A. Matt. 5: 21,22: SIN WITH OUR BODY IS A RESULT OF THE SIN IN OUR HEARTS: MURDER IS A RESULT OF ONES HEART FILLED WITH HATE.
(See I John 3:15,16)

- What is Jesus calling us to be?
- Will this be a positive influence on our world?
- Explain?

B. Matt. 5:23-25 SINCE MURDER IS A RESULT OF HATE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT JESUS TEACHES ABOUT KEEPING ONE'S HEART FREE FROM HATE. (see also I JN.3:11-15)

- What is Jesus calling us to be?
- Would this be a positive influence on our world?
- Explain?

C. MATT. 5:27-33 IN THESE VERSES JESUS DEALS WITH THE SIN OF LUST: WHERE IT COMES FROM (i.e. the heart) AND WHAT IT IS (i.e. adultery). JESUS ALSO GIVES US INSIGHT INTO HOW TO KEEP FREE FROM LUST. TO ACCOMBLISH, WE MUST KEEP NEGATIVE INFLUNCNES OUT OF OUR LIVES. FOR EXAMPLES, THERE MAYBE SOMEONE OR SOMETHING LEADING YOUR HEART TO THE SIN OF LUST OR HATTRED, WE WOULD DO WELL TO CUT THOSE THINGS OUT OF OUR LIVES. (See also James 1:13-15 & Ephesians 4:17-21)

- What is Jesus calling us to be?
- Would this be a positive influence on our world?
- Explain?

MEMORY WORK: To be reviewed during lesson # 4.

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HIGHER GROUND

Luke. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTER 5 –7

LESSON 4

ONE, OR TWO-MILE SERVANTS?

MATT. 5:38-42

As we study some of the many lessons that are found in this wonderful sermon, let us not forget the goal. In our hearts, mind and body Jesus is calling us to “HIGHER GROUND”. He is saying to us, “friend go up higher”. (LK. 14:10) The Christian’s calling is one that leads us to beatitudes, not attitudes. We are to live a life that influences the world around us, not being influenced by the world.

The principles that Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:38-42 are still amazing. Jesus calls us to, “turn the other cheek”, “give your cloak also” and finally, “go the extra mile”. The people that listen to Jesus must have been wondering, “What in the world is He talking about??” Many today are wondering the same thing. In short Jesus is calling us to be, “extra mile servants” or followers that want go above and beyond the normal limits set by the world around us.

When we try to live the “extra mile” principles in our life we are reaching for the “HIGHER GROUND” in two ways..

- We treat those that would mistreat us with kindness, thereby defusing addial hostilities against our selves.
- And we deal with our anger in a positive way.

These are lofty goals to be sure. But that is the point. Jesus in these teachings wants us to reach beyond the excepted norms of the world. In this lesson we will consider weather or not these principles can be applied in today’s world. If so, how? And we will discuss

the effect (if any) they would have in our life. We will also see times in the life of Jesus that He lived each of these principles.

TWO MILE SERVANTS

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “TURN THE OTHER CHEEK”? MATT. 5:39 (NOTE: This is not fight, but more of a custom of insulting a foe.)

- Can this principle be applied today?
- If so, give an example.
- How would this make your family, school, etc, a better place to live?
- Give an example of a time that Jesus lived this principal.

B. WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN WHEN HE SAYS, “LET HIM HAVE YOUR CLOAK ALSO”? MATT. 5:40

- Can this principle be applied today?
- If so, give an example
- How would this make your family, school, etc. a better place to live?
- Give an example of a time that Jesus lived this principal.

C. WHAT IS JESUS TEACHING HIS FOLLOWERS TO DO, WHEN HE SAYS, “GO WITH HIM TWO MILES” AND “FROM HIM WHO WANTS TO BORROW FROM YOU, DO NOT TURN AWAY”? MATT. 5:41,42

- Can this principle be applied today?
- If so, give an example.
- How would this make your family, school, etc. a better place to live?
- Give an example of a time that Jesus lived this principal.

Also see Romans 12:17-21 for further discussion of these lofty principals.

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"HIGHER GROUND"

LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5-7

LESSON FIVE

FALSE OR TRUE LOVE

MATT. 5:43-47

In Matthew 5 Jesus give a series of five illustrations, showing the difference between the righteousness practiced by the scribes and Pharisees under the law, and the Higher level of righteousness He requires under the New Testament. Jesus says, *"For I say unto you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."* Matt. 5:20 This is the aim of our lessons, to understand that in Christ we are to humble our self, so our Lord can invite us to HIGHER GROUND. James stresses this same point when he wrote, *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will LIFT YOU UP."* Jam. 4:10

Our lesson today will focus on the higher calling of our Lord to a true love. We will look at what the Old Testament says about love and then we will study what the New Testament reveals about the subject. False or true love, this is our topic. Keep in mind our Savior is calling us to a HIGHER understanding, so our righteousness will "exceed" the "righteousness" lived by those in the past.

FALSE OR TRUE LOVE??

A. THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW OF LOVE: (5:43)

1. Love for ones neighbor was plainly set forth in the Law of Moses. For example:

- Lev. 19:17,18
- Ex. 23:4,5
- Prov. 24:17

The Law of Moses prohibited holding a grudge or hating one's neighbor, but the scribes and Pharisees perverted the old law. The only neighbors they felt obligated to love were people of their own race and nation; the enemies they felt free to hate were all others.

B. THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW OF LOVE. (5:44-47)

1. Loving your enemies appears to many to be impossible. This is due to a misunderstanding of the word love. Is Jesus saying to "love our enemies" in all the same respects, which we show love toward friends, or loved ones? Here are some examples to help us understand this principle a little better:

- LK. 10:25-37 parable of the Good Samaritan (The Samaritans and the Jews were bitter enemies.)
 - LK. 23:34 Jesus praying for those who crucified Him.
2. The desire, which enables us to deal with an enemy as the Good Samaritan and Jesus did, is the love for our enemies that is called for by our Lord.
3. Jesus gives us three ways to show what true love for our enemies is all about:
- "bless those who curse you"
 - "do good to those who hate you"
 - "pray for those who spitefully use and persecute you"

To bless, do good and pray for those that we love is one level of love. To do the same to those that we may consider the "enemy" is truly reaching for HIGHER GROUND..

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"HIGHER GROUND"

LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5 – 7

LESSON SIX

LIP OR HEART SERVICE?

MATT. 6:1-18

As we continue to study the Sermon on the Mount, we can see God's desires for us more clearly. God continues to call us "up higher". God wants us to live according to beatitudes, not attitude, servants that are willing to go the "extra" mile. We have also learned what true love is all about. And God calls us to be a positive influence to those around us.

In Matthew 6:1-18 Jesus gives three examples of Christian service. 1) Giving to the poor, 2) Our prayer life, and 3) Fasting. In this lesson we will consider these three areas of Christian service. Our Lord has already shown that "Our righteousness" must exceed that of the Pharisees and scribes. Jesus teaches us to give, pray, and fast, but unlike the Pharisees, our "deeds" are not for the glory of man. A Christian's service comes from the heart, not from the lip. *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."* Col. 3:17

We will read the text and answer questions that show the differences between "lip service" and "heart service". We will also consider what motivates us to serve the way we do.

SERVICE FROM THE LIPS OR FROM THE HEART

(READ Matt. 6:1-18)

Define the terms:

- ❖ **Hypocrites:** An actor, someone pretending to be something their not.
- ❖ **Fasting:** Keeping yourself (for a certain period of time) from something you want or need. The object of the fast was usually food.
- ❖ **Debtor:** One that owes something to someone.

A. CHARITABLE DEEDS (GIVING): Matt. 6:1-4

1. Does Jesus teach against giving?
2. Give an example of someone “sounding a trumpet” today?
3. What were the Pharisees doing by “sounding a trumpet? (Service from the lips or heart?)
4. What does Jesus mean about the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing?

B. PRAYER LIFE: Matt. 6:5-15

1. Where do hypocrites like to pray?
2. Why do they like to pray there?
3. What type of service is this? (From the lips or service from the heart?)
4. In what way does Jesus want us to pray?
5. In Jesus’ model prayer, who’s will is He seeking?
6. If we desire God’s forgiveness, we must be willing to do what?

C. FASTING: Matt. 6:16-18

1. What is fasting?
2. Explain the goal of the hypocrites when they fasted.
3. What would the hypocrites look like when they fasted?
4. Would the hypocrites fast be service from the lips or from the heart?
5. When someone is fasting, should it be noticeable?
6. What was the reward of hypocrite’s service?

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"HIGHER GROUND" LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5-7 LESSON SEVEN

WASTED OR WISE INVESTMENTS?

MATT. 6: 19-34

The guest at the wedding feast was invited to “*go up higher*” LK. 14:10. Do you remember? In so many words, over the past six lessons we have heard the same invitation from our Lord. If you have noticed each of our lessons give us a choice. For example we learned that we can have the attitude of the world OR we can live the beatitudes of our Lord. We are being given a choice. It is a decision that we all must make. Jesus thru the Sermon on the Mount is calling us to a higher, better, nobler way of living.

In this lesson we have another choice before us. Matt. 6:19-34 Jesus is teaching His followers about wise investments. An investment is simply to commit to something with the hopes of getting a return. For example: You may invest a lot of time studying for a math test with the hopes of getting an A. In our lesson today we will learn about making wise investments by consider the following:

- **WHERE TO INVEST YOUR TREASURES? VS. 19-21**
- **DO YOU KNOW A GOOD INVESTMENT WHEN YOU SEE ONE? VS. 22-24**
- **WHAT IS THE RETURN ON ALL THAT TIME INVESTED IN WORRING? VS. 25-32**
- **WHERE CAN I INVEST AND RECEIVE A GOOD RETURN? VS. 33**

A. WHERE TO INVEST YOUR TREASURES? MATT. 6:19-21

- What type of treasures do you have to invest?
- Why does Jesus warn against “laying up treasures on earth”?
- What happens to our earthly investments?
- Where is the best place to invest our “treasures”?
- Why??

**B. DO YOU KNOW A GOOD INVESTMENT WHEN YOU SEE ONE?
MATT. 6:21-24**

- What is the “lamp of the body”?
- Are we affected by what we see?
- Explain?
- Can we invest in God and the world and receive a positive return on that investment?

**C. WHAT IS THE RETURN ON THE TIME WE SPEND WORRYING?
MATT. 6: 25-32**

- Is life more than food & clothing?
- What does worrying add to our life?
- What examples does Jesus give to show that time spent in worry is a wasted investment?
- Does God already know what are needs are?

**D. WHERE CAN I INVEST AND RECEIVE A GOOD RETURN?
MATT. 6:33,34**

- What will God “add” to us if we seek Him first?
- Why is it a poor investment to worry about tomorrow?

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HIGHER GROUND

LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5-7

LESSON 8

WIDE OR NARROW GATE?

MATT. 7:13,14

We are reaching for “higher ground”. Jesus in this wonderful sermon is calling His followers to a higher way of thinking and living. And it is good to know that the choice to follow (or not) is up to us.. We can make the decision to live our lives according to the beatitudes or live according to the attitudes of the world. To be one or two mile servants, again it is our choice.

In this lesson we will be given another opportunity to choose. In Matt. 7:13,14 Jesus gives the example of two gates through which a person can travel (or live their life). We cannot go through both gates at the same time. There is a choice we must make. But before we make a decision on which gate we will enter, we will see the two gates are noticeably different. What makes those gates different is going to be part of the focus of this lesson. We will also discuss what makes each gate appealing (or unappealing). Which gate will lead us to “higher ground”??

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE TWO GATES?

- **ONE GATE IS WIDE, THE OTHER IS NARROW.**
- **ONE GATE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, THE OTHER LEADS TO LIFE.**

- **ONE GATE IS EASY TO ENTER, THE OTHER IS DIFFACULT.**
- **ONE GATE WILL ATTRACT MANY, THE OTHER ONLY A FEW.**

A. WHAT IS APPEALING ABOUT THE ABOUT THE WIDE GATE?

- ✓ **There will be a lot of company. (i.e. “there will many that go in”)**
- ✓ **The broad gate is wide enough to allow every sin, hatred, vice, and sinful influence.**
- ✓ **It is the easy way: Easy to enter because no thought, faith or repentance is needed.**
- ✓ **The broad way is appealing to many because of the license to engage in every sin one may want.**

B. WHAT IS UNAPPEALING ABOUT THE WIDE GATE?

- ✓ **Many in the broad gate will be people that we would not want to be around. (i.e. murders, thieves, etc.)**
- ✓ **The broad gate leads to destruction.**

C. WHAT IS APPEALING ABOUT THE NARROW GATE?

- ✓ **It is the Upward Way, which leads to God**
- ✓ **It is the safe way, which leads to Life.**
- ✓ **It is the way that leads to true happiness“.**
- ✓ **The narrow gate is appealing to those traits we like. (i.e. love, forgiveness, truth, compassion, etc.) There may only be a “few” in the narrow way, but they are quality “few”**

D. WHAT IS UNAPPEALING ABOUT THE NARROW GATE?

- ✓ **Due to the gate being narrow there are some things I cannot bring along. (i.e. pride, self will, maybe even those I love)**
- ✓ **If friends or loved ones do not want to come, it could be lonely.**
- ✓ **It is a way one must “strive” to enter in: LK. 13:24**

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"HIGHER GROUND"

LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTER 5-7

LESSON 9

True or False prophets??

MATT. 7:15-20

It is our goal to "go up higher" in our walk with our Lord. To assist in reaching that "higher ground" God has given us His inspired word, the Bible. Staying true to God's word is the focus of this lesson. We want to reach for "higher ground". Yet, one cannot reach for "higher ground" while at the same time being unaware of the difference between truth and error. In this lesson we will consider the following:

- ❑ **The Lord's warning about false prophets.** VS. 15
- ❑ **How can one identify error?** VS. 16-18
- ❑ **The destiny of false prophets.** VS. 20

THE LORD'S WARNING: "BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS"

MATT. 7:15

The occasion of this warning is against the deception that Jesus had just spoke about concerning the way of life and the way of destruction. (see Matt.7:13,14) One reason so many travel the broad way is due to the fact they have been deceived by false teachers. A "false prophet" is one whose teaching is untrue, contrary to the word of God. The Bible is the standard, our only standard; Jesus is our Guide, our only Guide. (II Tim. 3:16,17; JN. 14:6; Acts 4:12)

A false prophet does not look harmful. Jesus says they come to us in "sheep's clothing". This is a great part of the deception. They may look very humble & loving. They may be a daily part of any congregation. But the false prophet cannot be identified by what is on the outside, because they are truly wolves wearing sheep's clothes. On the outside they look harmless, loving, and like the rest of the flock. But inwardly they are there to do the flock harm. Paul uses the same analogy when he warned the Elders at Ephesus about this very subject. Paul said, "*For I know this, that after my departure*

SAVAGE WOLVES will come in among you, not sparing the flock.” Acts 20:29 The work of the false teacher is very destructive God’s church. For this reason Jesus gives such a strong warning.

HOW TO IDENTIFY FALSE PROPHETS: MATT. 7:16-18

People, as well as trees, are known by what they produce. One may assume and pretend to be what he is not, but in time their fruits will identify them. In keeping with the example that Jesus gave in our text, it can be said, “A wolf in sheep’s clothing cannot always act and sound like a sheep”...In time the false teacher’s words and actions will give him away.. Going back to Paul’s words in Acts 20:29 & 30 we can see three identify marks (or fruits) that are produced by the false prophets.

- ❖ They would be “speaking perverse things”: Teaching things that are contrary to God’s word. (NOTE: The warning about adding to or taking from God’s word. Rev. 22:18,19)
- ❖ They would not “spare the flock”: The false prophet produces the fruits of false teaching that divide the flock. In other words they will teach whatever they want, no matter how harmful it would be to the church.. (NOTE: The warning about division. JN. 17: 20-23; Jude 17-19)
- ❖ The end result of the false prophet is that they “draw” disciples away from the flock to themselves.

The force of the Lord’s teaching in this passage must be honestly accepted and courageously applied today, or we (and others) must suffer the hazards imposed by following false teachings.

THE DESTINY OF FALSE PROPHETS: MATT. 7:19,20

In this part of our lesson we see the hazard of being a false prophet. “INTO THE FIRE”: Dead or unfruitfulness are fit only for burning. The Lord speaks of the awful doom of false prophets and those who are deceived by them. (see also Jude3,4)

Since the warning of Jesus is so strong concerning this matter, consider the following to help better equip us to deal with false teachings??

- ✓ Attend church as much as possible in order to be encouraged and be an encouragement to others. Heb. 10:24,25
- ✓ Search the “Scriptures daily”. Acts. 17:10,11
- ✓ Always be diligent to add to your faith. II Pet. 1:5-10
- ✓ Encourage your preacher and Bible teachers, to “preach the word”. II Tim. 4:2,3

MEMORY WORK: To be reviewed during lesson # 10.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

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2008

"HIGHER GROUND"

LK. 14:10

LESSONS FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5 – 7

LESSON 10

BUILDING ON THE ROCK OR ON THE SAND

MATT. 7:21-27

Here we are at the end of our study. During our time together we have been able to learn a lot about living on "HIGHER GROUND". Jesus' sermon on the mount is so rich with so many lessons to learn and choices to make. Attitude or Beatitudes; Influence the world or be influenced by the world: One or Two mile servants, etc. These are just some of the lessons and choices we are called to make.

In our final lesson it is fitting to consider Jesus' last word of this sermon. Jesus compares our living for him (thru humble obedience to His word) to a man building a house on a rock. (Matt. 7:21-27) NOTE: Jesus says "*he that hears these sayings of mine and DOES THEM, I will liken him to a man who builds his house upon the rock;*" Vs. 23 The reason it is fitting to end our lessons with this "building on the rock" analogy is because there are many similarities between striving for "HIGHER GROUND" and "building our house on the rock". This will be the focus of our final lesson. We will consider some ways in which "going up higher" and "building our house on the rock" have many of the same traits.

GOING UP HIGHER & BUILDING ON THE ROCK ARE..

- HARDER TO ACHIVE..
- GOING TO TAKE MORE EFFORT..
- GOING TO TAKE MORE TIME..

□ BETTER PLACE TO BE DURING STORMS..

- **GOING UP HIGHER & BUILDING ON THE ROCK ARE BOTH HARDER TO ACHIEVE..** (LK. 6:48 “dug deep”)
 - WHAT ARE SOME GOALS THAT JESUS TEACHES IN THIS SERMON THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE HARD TO ACHIEVE?
 - WHY?
- **GOING UP HIGHER & BUILDING ON THE ROCK ARE BOTH GOING TO TAKE MORE EFFORT.** (Matt. 7:14)
 - CHOOSE A PRINCIPLE TAUGHT IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, THEN DISCUSS THE EFFORT IT WILL TAKE TO REACH THAT LOFTY GOAL.
 - WILL THE EFFORT BE WORTH IT? WHY?
- **GOING UP HIGHER & BUILDING ON THE ROCK ARE BOTH GOING TO TAKE MORE TIME.** (Keep in mind Matt. 6:33 for this point.)
 - HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND EACH DAY FOR THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO? (i.e. chores, schoolwork, etc.)
 - HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU MAKE FOR THINGS YOU WANT TO DO? (i.e. Sports, friends, TV. Etc.)
 - HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU GIVE TO GOD? (i.e. Church, prayer, bible study, etc.)
- **GOING UP HIGHER & BUILDING ON THE ROCK ARE BOTH BETTER PLACES TO BE DURING A STORM.** (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - WHAT TYPE OF STORMS MIGHT WE FACE IN OUR LIVES?
 - HOW CAN FOLLOWING JESUS’ WORDS (OR BUILDING ON THE ROCK) HELP IN TIMES OF LIFE’S STORMS?