



## Part 5: *Two Foundations*

In the Sermon on the Mount we see Christ's picture of God's alternative society. These are the standards, the values and the priorities of the kingdom of God. This is Christ's manifesto. When Jesus calls us to himself, it is to this that he calls us. For he is the Lord of the counter-culture.

~ John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

Jesus' life is but a commentary on this sermon. And the sermon grows out of his life. What he teaches is not different from what he is.

~ Stanley Hauerwas, *Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible*

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?

~ Jesus

Entrance into the kingdom, then, does turn on obedience after all – not the obedience which earns merit points, but which bows to Jesus' lordship in everything and without reservation. Because only the one who *does* the will of his Father will enter the kingdom.

~ D. A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*

The truth on which Jesus is insisting in these final two paragraphs of the Sermon is that neither an intellectual knowledge of him nor a verbal profession, though both are essential in themselves, can ever be a substitute for obedience.

~ John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

Jesus insists, in the great warning which closes the Sermon, that his hearers will be judged, not even on their direct response to God himself, but on whether they hear these words and do them. Doing what Jesus says, or not doing it: this makes the difference between a house that stays standing in a storm and a house that falls with a great crash.

~ N.T. Wright, *Matthew for Everyone*

The essence of discipleship is not just about belief, but also about behaviour or ethics; indeed the latter is the ultimate revealer of what one truly believes.

~ Ben Witherington III, *Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary*

Jesus is more concerned with our "walk" than our "talk". On judgment day only a person's relationship with Christ – acceptance of him as Saviour and obedience to him as Lord – will matter.

~ Linda K. Taylor, *Life Application New Testament Commentary*

Two houses, like two believers, may look very similar on the outside. But the difference between them, and between true and false believers, will be revealed when testing and trials come.

~ Joe Kapolyo, *Africa Bible Commentary*

No Jewish teacher apart from Jesus ever claimed so much authority for his own words; such authority was reserved for the law itself.

~ Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*

With greater authority than the scribes who expound the law, greater authority than Moses who gave it, the authority indeed of the one who will judge humanity on the final day, Jesus declares God's word, and the people recognize that he speaks with authority unlike their other teachers.

~ Craig S. Keener, *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*

Jesus places his own person and teaching as the revelation of God's will in place of the Torah. With his "I say unto you," his authority transcends even that of the prophet's "Thus says the Lord."

~ E. Eugene Boring, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

I am the way.

~ Jesus