



Worship Guide for *August 12, 2018*

## Sermon Notes

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### **The Danger of Self-deception**

Matthew 7:21-23 (pew Bible pg. 812)

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)*

The goal of today’s sermon is not to bother you, or put unnecessary fear in you, or cause you to doubt the reality of your relationship with Christ. But, if the words of Jesus bother you, or put a healthy fear in you, or cause you to seriously examine the basis of your faith claim, then let them. That is a good thing! The words of Christ in this closing portion of the Sermon on the Mount are “designed to put the fear of God in us about our moral condition”. (McKnight)

Today’s sermon text is a sobering passage that contains a serious warning about the danger of being deceived. Jesus aims His words at our hearts and shines His holy light into our souls and demands we take an honest look at what is revealed.

The good news of God’s glorious gospel is that He is willing to give us this opportunity. The Sermon on the Mount shows us what Jesus requires of us; what it means to do “the will of my Father who is in heaven”. Jesus expects us to *hear* His words and *do* them (Matt 7:24). Again, the good news of God’s glorious gospel is that what God requires of us in the Sermon on the Mount He purchases for us and accomplishes in us through Christ. So, the clear warning about self-deception is for our good. It is for our salvation. It is for our flourishing. Today, let the Spirit of God use this passage as He would to do a good work in your soul.

Words alone, even the right words, are not sufficient to save.

Activities alone, even extraordinary activities, are not evidence of saving faith.

Obedience alone; this is the essential characteristic of the genuine disciple.

Applications:

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## Life Group Guide

### Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

### Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

### Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

### Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

Why is doing life intentionally in community with brothers and sisters vital to our living in assurance of our salvation?

What are some ways our culture makes the gospel "muddy" that align with the points from this week's sermon? How can we seek to crystalize the gospel in such a context?

How has the last two passages/sermons challenged you in the area of discernment? How might you go about growing in this area?

**Be > Do**

### Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
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#### Contact Us

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#### Upcoming Events

August 12 - Students @ Durham Bulls  
August 17 - Person @ S Granville  
August 19 - Student Ministry Cookout  
August 24 - Person vs. Northern High  
August 27 - GriefShare Loss of a Spouse  
Aug 30-Sept 1 - Parking Lot Closed