



## “Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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### Lesson 7: Follow the Builder’s Plans

#### 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Read Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, who is the master? What does the master do before he leaves?

What does this parallel for us?

When does the master return? What does he return to do? We have two positive examples here. What positive things are they given? Is this only a positive for this world?

The third servant made his decision after considering what? What does he seem to expect from his master? What is the first thing the master says to him? What warning is there for us? What ends up happening to what that servant was given? What happens to the servant? Looking at this from an eternal perspective, which of the servants were actually saved? Which thought they were saved? What was the attitude of those who actually WERE saved verses the unsaved?

Read Matthew 6:19-21. Who is speaking here? What parallels do we see with this passage and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15? What is the warning that is given in verse 21?

Read Matthew 7:21-23. This passage could be a series in itself, but we will just touch on this today. What sobering warning are we given here? What will those who claim to be of Christ (yet aren’t) point to as evidence of their salvation?\*

What does Jesus call them, as He tells them to depart? What message comes immediately after this warning in Matthew? What is Jesus warning about? What can we understand about the foundation of those who are told to depart?

Read Matthew 11:20-24. Why does Jesus denounce these cities? What comparison does He make? Look carefully at verse 22. From what Jesus is saying here, even if you don’t know the details of events in Tyre and Sidon, we can infer some things. Tyre and Sidon did not repent, just as Chorazin and Bethsaida didn’t repent. What event does Jesus foreshadow here? If you had a choice to be either in Tyre and Sidon or Chorazin, based on how Jesus is speaking here, which would you rather be part of? Why? What would have

brought the people of Sodom to repentance? What was the response of the people of Capernaum?

Understand that Jesus is saying all of this not for HIS benefit, but for ours, and for those who were listening at the time. God was JUST in the destruction of Sodom. There is no mistaking that. He was not UN just because He didn't do the mighty works done that would bring about the repentance of Sodom. Look back at Genesis 18:22-19:14 and see the situation in Sodom. We see, clearly, in this passage in Matthew, that there will be some manner of harsher punishment on the day of judgment. I have no idea what that will look like, but make no mistake, Jesus isn't exaggerating here. He emphasizes this TWICE in this passage; there will be harsher punishment for some based on their rebellion and refusal to repent.

\*\*I really want to make this clear, so I'm giving you answers today. The people in Matthew 7 point to their WORKS as evidence of their salvation, yet Jesus clearly tells them that they are "workers of lawlessness" and not a part of God's kingdom. Elsewhere in Scripture we are warned that there will be false signs and false wonders; that there are works that the evil one and his minions can accomplish that mimic true signs. Those things, in themselves, are NOT evidence of our regeneration. We can be good moral people, and people who seem to do miraculous signs and wonders, and still not be part of God. Don't rely on your works as evidence of your salvation, ladies. Ask yourself, honestly, if you have new affections and desires since coming to know Christ...or if you are just doing "what you're supposed to do". Obedience to Christ comes when we are new creations, with new affections, hating the old things we once loved and loving the things of God. If you are pointing to your works as evidence, consider whose glory you are actually seeking. This is so important, but this passage does not have to be scary. When we truly understand who we are and what Christ has done on our behalf, when we truly trust in Him, we know that we are His because of the change wrought in our lives, as we hunger for His Word and the things He loves. The most amazing miracle is a truly regenerated heart, and only God can accomplish that. Don't look for signs and wonders; look to see the overall pattern of your life. Is it one of increasing love for the Savior, or increasing disdain for the "rules" you have to follow? Read back through yesterday's notes and also read through 1 John and examine yourself to be sure that you are truly His.

As you spend time in prayer today, ask God to help you to see how fully sufficient and satisfying He is for all that we need. Ask Him to help you be content where He has placed you, and to look around you to see where He may be calling you to honor Him, right where you are. Ask Him to help you to grow in discernment and to hold fast to what is truth, from Scripture. Ask Him to reveal any unhealthy fascination you may have with a teacher or pastor and ask Him to ground you in His Word, always. Ask Him to help you to be willing and able to share the hope you have, glorifying your Savior as you do so.