

Life Apps

Practical Teaching: Getting In the Know

“What you know doesn’t change anything.” I remember hearing that phrase several years ago and being a scientist’s son, I objected. Strenuously. But then the speaker reminded us of the books we’d bought over the years about eating right and exercising and healthy living ... and asked how that knowledge was working for us. Then he reminded us of the get-wealthy books we’d bought over the years and asked how that was working for us. And I got it. But there’s another side of it, because sometimes practical teaching can change our lives. And yes ... there’s an app for that.

Matthew 7:24–27

1. The meaning of the parable of the foundations can be summed up in two words: _____.
2. To have an Amazing Faith we must _____ the Word of God, we must _____ it, and we must _____ it.
3. The fruit of obedience is a _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I’ll be here next week
- I’ll invite a friend
- I want to participate in the *Discipleship Directions Course*
- I’ll get the Right Now Media App
- I will be obedient this week in my: _____

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Matthew 7:13–29. These passages close what has been called the Sermon On the Mount that begins in Matthew 5 and concludes with the last verse in chapter 7. Matthew 5:1 – 7:12 are instructions, commands, aphorisms, and illustrations that could be called rules for full and abundant living. These are followed by four passages (7:13–29) that warn about being faithful to the sermon’s teachings.

1. Read 7:13–14 Jesus uses the metaphors of gates and roads. In the context of the larger sermon, what do the two ways represent?

2. Why do you think only a few take the road that leads to life? (v 14)

3. Read 7:15–20. A prophet is another word for a teacher or a preacher. They didn’t so much forecast the future as they pointed out the consequences for right (and wrong) living. What do you think is the fruit of a faithful prophet? Of a false prophet?

4. Read 7:21–23. Jesus contrasts the “many” who claim to have been faithful followers and the “one” who did the will of the Father (who was obedient to the teachings of scripture, including Jesus’ teachings). Why do the *many* think they should be invited into the kingdom of heaven? Why do you think Jesus said he didn’t even know them? What did they do – or not do?

5. Read 7:24–27. This is the closing parable of the sermon. Whereas, the other three passages indicate eternal destinies, this parable suggests it represents earthly lives. What do you think the difference in the quality of lives of the two builders would be?

6. What do you need to do to ensure a life built on the rock foundation?
