

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Sermon on the Mount

Title: Choices

Speaker: Steve Berg

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WARM-UP

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a call to those who would follow him to make a choice. Can you remember hearing a sermon/teaching and you sensed a powerful opportunity for you to make a choice? As you begin the discussion, reflect together on Jesus' call to those listening to his teaching to make a choice.

DISCUSSION

It is as foolish and dangerous to say you follow Jesus and hear his teaching without submitting to it - as it is to build a house with a poor foundation. Jesus illustrates that there can be a gap between our lips (calling him "Lord") and our lives (doing the will of the Father) - between saying and doing - between a verbal confession and a moral obedience. What would you say to the person who says, "I have accepted Jesus as my Savior, but I don't understand how I can make Jesus my Lord?"

Why must all submission begin on the heart (or thought) level? Does this mean that we should not submit outwardly if our heart is not in it? How can we become submissive and obedient from the heart?

The solid foundation for life is built by hearing Jesus teaching and submitting to him. Practically what does that look like for you?

What are the examples of "sinking sand" that we tend to build our lives on and why?

Can tell the story of someone that you knew was going through a "life storm"

and they were not shaken because they had built their life on Christ the rock?
In the illustration Jesus gives, both houses still experience the storm. How can you support someone who is going through a storm right now?

DISCUSSION

Activity: In his conclusion, Mike encourages us to self-reflect on the various things that take up our time and energy and then to put that up against the church's vision statement: follow Jesus and make Him known in all we do. As a gift to each other, spend some quiet time to do this activity and start to make an inventory of all you do? Then put it up against the litmus test. Does it recharge the tanks to carry out your purpose? Does it carry out your purpose? Do the things on your list point to Jesus or point others to Jesus? Once you complete the exercise, share if you're able.

