1. review of the sermon on the MOunt- the DNA of god’ s kingdom
   1. The foundational call in the Sermon on the Mount is to live out the 8 beatitudes. Poor in spirit, spiritual mourning, walking in meekness, hungering for righteousness, showing mercy, embracing purity, being a peacemaker, and enduring persecution (***Mt. 5:3-12***). The beatitudes define love, spiritual maturity, and the kingdom lifestyle.
2. Be on guard from spiritual fantasy

Mt 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves…22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.”

* 1. Spiritual fantasy involves our belief that if and when God releases His power on us and through us, it will increase our personal sphere, our public sphere, and personal awesomeness.
  2. This type of erroneous thinking is propagated by the false prophet and false teacher that Jesus warned about and then connected the truth that outward power is not always the proof of the having a heart that is in agreement with God.

Mat 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

1. CHOOSING BETWEEN TWO PATHS
   1. Jesus is concluding what He has been saying in Matthew 5 and Matthew 6. Jesus is defining two different messages that are being declared. He is not defining this as Christianity versus other religions. He was talking about two roads that are being declared in the body of Christ.
   2. Jesus wants us to connect with the reward system of Heaven and it primarily relates to the age to come. This is the only way we make sense of living our lives with a poverty of spirit, giving, fasting, meekness, prayer, forgiving my enemies.   
      ***Rev 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.  
      1Cor 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.  
      2 Jn 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.***
   3. ***The broad way:*** Many argue for this way with few restrictions, giving much room for compromise. It’s a road of permissiveness where you do not have to leave anything behind (lusts or pride, etc.). Many are proud of being very tolerant and broad-minded.
   4. ***The narrow way:*** Few choose this because it is difficult on our fleshly desires that must be denied (***Mt. 16:24***). It has clear boundaries defined by God. To walk on this road, we must leave everything behind that is not in God’s will—our lust, pride, covetousness, etc.
   5. Entering the narrow gate is to strive to enter which has a different meaning than what we are used to hearing. We are not to strive ***to earn*** God’s love. We *are* to strive in the sense of ***putting effort*** into our relationship with God, similar to how we put effort into our relationships with family and friends, etc. Striving, in this sense, is an expression of love.
   6. ***Wrong striving:*** We must never strive to receive God’s love. It has been freely given to us because of Jesus’ work on the cross. To strive to earn God’s love denies the foundational truths of the gospel. It is also wrong to strive in the sense of seeking to establish our own agenda or to strive to make people respond to our ministry or ideas by pressuring them.
   7. ***Biblical striving:*** Jesus calls us to exert great effort in walking in the narrow way (***Mt. 7:13-14***). We strive to obey God (***Lk. 13:24; Acts 24:16; Heb. 12:4***) in ministry labors (***Col. 1:29***), in prayer (***Rom. 15:30***), for unity (***Phil. 1:27***) and in being diligent to enter God’s rest (***Heb. 4:11***), disciplining our body (***1 Cor. 9:27***), and pressing into God (***Phil. 3:12-15***)
   8. Jesus doesn’t contradict Himself in ***Mt. 7:13*** when He said in ***Mt 11:30*** to take His yoke. Rest in this context is a spiritual rest for our soul and not a physical rest for our flesh. The opposite of rest is not diligence; it is restlessness with its emotional turmoil. Laziness is often accompanied with restlessness both spiritually and emotionally.

Mt 11:29-30“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

* + 1. The easy yoke is to have peace in our heart as we deny our flesh by ceasing to fight for our honor, recognition, and comfort, etc. Great freedom comes to our heart by renouncing all our agendas that compete with Jesus' perfect will in our life. Hard yoke is living with fear, rejection, turmoil, and confusion.

1. false teachers and authenticity

Mt 7:15 Beware of false prophet, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

* 1. Jesus said those who would promote the broad way are false prophets. Jesus compared false teachers to wolves because their ideas are dangerous. They are dangerous to people’s spiritual life because they convince them that the narrow way is much broader than Jesus taught.

Mt 7:20 Therefore you will know them by their fruits

* 1. Jesus places higher value on the fruit of righteousness of the person than the outward working of power.

1. Prioritize obedience
   1. Many who profess Christ do not seriously embrace obedience in their private lives (***Mt. 7:21-23***). Jesus went from talking about false prophets (***v. 15-20***) to false professors (***v. 21-23***).

Mt 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

* 1. ***He who does God’s will:*** Obedience to Jesus does not earn our salvation but gives evidence that our faith is genuine (***Jam. 2:14-17***). We express our faith with works of obedience to Jesus. To exalt works as that which earns God's love greatly undermines the grace of God. However, to exclude good works as unnecessary is to deny the life empowering influence of grace (***Ti. 2:11- 13***). Salvation *by* works and salvation *without* works both rob Jesus of His glory.
  2. ***Many will say:*** Many boldly profess allegiance to Jesus publicly by calling Him their Lord, but they lack the saving faith that must be expressed in the lives of all who genuinely love Jesus.Jesus emphasized the popularity of the broad way with its distorted message of grace (***Mt. 7:13, 22; 24:5, 11, 12***). It is alarming to know that so many professing believers live this way.

1 Cor 6:9-10 Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Mt 7:22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord...”

* 1. ***Supernatural ministry:*** They assume their popular ministry will be sufficient proof of their genuine faith. They have many testimonies of their prophecies, exorcisms, and healing miracles.
  2. ***Depart from Me:*** These will be the most shocking and terrifying words that they will ever hear. Their focus is mostly on their ministry and not in cultivating a life of obedience.
  3. ***You who practice lawlessness:*** These are not mass murderers, but simply people who embraced lifestyles of immorality, drunkenness, lying, and financial lack of integrity, etc.

Mt 7:13 Broad is the way that leads to destruction, and...many who go in by it.

1. Evidence of Genuine faith

Mt 7:21 not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Mt 24:5-12 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many… Then many will be offended, will betray one another…Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many…The love of many will grow cold.

* 1. Jesus is emphasizing the people who say they believe in Jesus, but their lifestyle is contrary to that declaration. The emphasis is a call to us to ask ourselves the question about our private lives and how we obey the Lord with them. Obedience does not earn us salvation, but it gives evidence of our faith. We express faith in Christ through our obedience. To exalt works as a way of salvation undermines the grace of God to save us and to deny works undermines the influence of the grace that we have received from God.

1. Essence of wisdom
   1. Jesus gives His final comments by calling us to set our hearts to live consistently obedient. This involves resisting the spirit of the age or the secular influence that creeps into the church. Nothing can substitute in our lives for obedience to the Lord. Our gifts and ministry assignment do not override obedience to the Lord.
   2. Jesus gives a picture of two type of believers and likens them to builders of homes. One of the builders was wise because He took the time and trouble to build on the rock. The other was foolish because they built their house on sand.

Mt 7:24-25"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine [Sermon on the Mount], and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

* 1. Jesus tells us a storm is coming that will test and prove our love of Jesus. The pressures of life will be the personal storm that will test our love. First, personal pressures in this life reveal the genuineness of our faith. Second, the evaluation of our life at the judgment seat of Christ will reveal the true character of our faith (***1 Cor. 3:11-15***). Did we live out the lifestyle of God with longevity? This is not about failing at times but our hearts being set intentionally.
  2. Jesus tells us that the way to be foolish in God's eyes is by neglecting to obey His teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (***Mt. 7:26-27***). Jesus invites everyone to be great in His sight without regard for their outward achievements or the size of their ministry. It will be based on the size of their heart in obedience and love to Him.

Mt 7:26-27 Everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Mt 5:19 Whoever breaks [consistently] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does [consistently] and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.