

Sermon Date: May 8, 2016

Pastor: Dan Wilvers

# Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



## Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

**“So what the heck is a Christian then?”**

***The King's Speech-Jesus' Sermon on the Mount***

Dan Wilvers-May 8th, 2016

My apologies for being late with this week's action steps; perhaps the most important one I've written. I traveled to SF on Wednesday to visit with Marie and Casey Howard. Marie has been fighting a rare auto-immune disorder for nearly a year, and has landed back in the hospital going back to March 29th. Please join us in praying for her recovery, and pray for the excellent doctors who are attempting to understand her condition better in order to treat Marie.

One last prayer request, while I am at it. Tami and Jim Cecil have been in a twenty year fight with Tami's Lupus that specifically has attacked her lungs and breathing capabilities. Most recently her heart has been gravely affected. Could you also please join with us in praying for them both. They are no more earthly answers for Tami, so a miracle is needed. Thank you dear brothers and sisters! **Now on to the lesson.**

In Jesus closing statements to his Sermon on the Mount he speaks about two roads, a two sided prophet, two trees, two types of disciples, and two houses. **What's going on here?**

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13,14

This appeal by Jesus is punctuated throughout his entire Sermon. He gives the call to decide now about following God's Way into eternal life or the world's way.

**Action Step:** The Way to God is on his terms, (through Jesus alone) the way to eternal loss is every other way man devises.

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus warns that not everyone who claims to speak for God actually does so.

**Action Step:** As you strive to enter the narrow gate beware of those that would mislead you on to the broad path that leads to destruction.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Matthew 7:21-23

After warning us about false teachers, Jesus warns us about ourselves and our ability to self deceive. Jesus isn't speaking to irreligious people, he is speaking specifically to people who are devotedly religious--but who are deluded into thinking they are on the road to heaven when in fact they are on the broad road to hell. True disciples will turn their trust to God's righteousness in Christ, while false disciples will trust in their own "good works".

**Action Step:** Reject any idea of salvation that isn't built upon Christ's death and resurrection for your sin, and commit yourself to the Good News of Jesus Christ exclusively and wholeheartedly.

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

Both builders have heard the Good News of Christ. (*who hears these words of mine*) They both know the way of salvation (*the narrow gate*). They both build a house after they have heard the way of salvation. The difference between the two builders is that one **does** act upon God's Word (obedience) and the other **does not** act upon God's Word (disobedience). One builds as it were upon divine specs, the other uses his own specs.

**Action Step:** Be very careful after having trusted Christ for your salvation to live your life following Him, by actively living a life of obedience. We all fail, but the follower who pursues Christ, will not have a problem owing up to his sins, and will agreeably accept accountability. This humility is what sets true followers apart from those that merely profess. **I think Paul summed it up very well in his appeal to the church at Colossae.**

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ... 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:5-17

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