

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
JANUARY 14-15, 2012
JESUS THE RABBI



1. Who was your childhood hero? What would your reaction have been if you could have met and learned from him/her?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27. How do you best hear Jesus' voice? Weekend worship? Small Group? Personal devotions? Other? How could you better hear Jesus?
3. What do the man who builds his house on the rock and the man who builds his house on the sand have in common? What is the difference between them?
4. Have you ever given someone good advice and they failed to follow it? How did you feel? How do you think Jesus feels when we hear his words and yet fail to put them into practice?
5. In the previous three chapters (Matthew 5-7), Jesus gives many instructions on how to live life well. He talks about anger and reconciling with others (5:21-26), adultery and lust (5:27-30), divorce (5:31-32), honesty (5:33-37), revenge and dealing with enemies (5:38-48), giving (6:1-4), prayer (6:5-15), materialism (6:19-24), and worrying (6:25-34), amongst other things. Which one of these areas do you sense Jesus specifically calling you to work on? What action steps do you need to take to put Jesus' words into practice in that area?
6. How would you describe your spiritual foundation right now? Shaky? Solid? Brand new? Slowly wearing away? Rebuilding? How does the condition of your spiritual foundation compare to what it was like one year ago?
7. How have you experienced Jesus being a sure foundation in your life? How would having a secure foundation help you weather the storms of life?
8. In your group prayer, ask Jesus to be your foundation and for strength to put Jesus' words into practice.

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THE STORY CONTINUES...

Jesus shows up in first century Middle East and claims to be King, not just of a certain people group, but of a spiritual kingdom that everyone is invited to live in. Jesus then goes on to teach what it looks like to live in this Kingdom with him as King. Matthew 5-7 has been labeled the “Sermon on the Mount” because Jesus went up on a “mountainside” to teach. These chapters hold treasures of wisdom that turn our assumptions upside down about how to live. Jesus invites us to learn from him, challenges us to live his teaching, and promises to be a firm foundation for our lives.

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