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**SERMON TITLE: Simply Christ or Fully Lord**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:21-27**

**DATE: May 2, 2021**

*View online service at* [*www.fpcd.org*](http://www.fpcd.org)*/live-stream*

*Read also Psalm 23*

King David describes in Psalm 23 what it means to walk with God throughout your life. Tradition has it that he wrote this Psalm toward the end of his kingship, after his affair with Bathsheba and the resultant fallout; after the death of two of his sons—he was probably a little over 70 years old.

From beginning to end the Lord was his Shepherd/King. He testifies about what it is like to be led by God:

“I shall not want.”

“I fear no evil.”

“He restores my soul.”

“He leads me in right paths.”

He then shifts into direct conversation with God:

“You are with me.”

“You comfort me.”

“You prepare a table for me before my enemies.”

“You anoint my head with oil.”

He makes a declaration:

***“Surely goodness and mercy follow me***

***all the days of my life.”***

The Lord is his Lord. It brings great intimacy and confidence. Can you say that? Or does something hold you back?

* David, who was chased by his enemies for years.
* David, who battled lions and tigers and bears.
* David who was a successful warrior.
* David, who had an affair and covered it with a murder.
* David, whose infant son died even though he poured himself out to God in prayer.
* David, whose adult son tried to usurp his throne by threatening his life. His son was killed by his military commander as a result.

David’s life intertwined with God in every circumstance—both good and bad. David did not waver in his faith. He said words like this:

* “The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock. . . . He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety” (Ps 18:2).
* “For he will conceal me there when troubles come; . . . He will place me out of reach on a high rock” (Psalm 27:5).
* “It is you who light my lamp; the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness. By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God -- his way is perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true. . . . And who is a rock besides our God? . . . Your right hand has supported me; your helphas made me great. (See Psalm 18:28-35)
* “I pray to you, O LORD, my rock. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you are silent, I might as well give up and die” (Psalm 28:1).
* “O God my rock,” I cry, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I wander around in grief, oppressed by my enemies?” (Psalm 42:9)

David’s relationship with God filled his whole life. In all aspects of life, whether it was success or distress, he found that God was there. In the good and bad, highs and lows, David found a way to lean on God—he never hesitated to trust in God with his very life. David held God in great esteem.

To David, God was fully Lord.

God described King David as a man after his own heart. God blessed him, although David suffered consequences for his moral failures.

Being a man after God’s heart did not mean David was perfect. It meant David lived out a lifestyle of faith. Part of living by faith is to be able to recover when we sin.

Jesus was talking to a crowd of people who had followed him because he was the new guy in town. He was very impressive in speaking; he healed people; he cast out demons. People were in awe. He had preached a very long sermon about the believer’s lifestyle.

Jesus talked about what it means to walk with God. It comes from the heart, he said. It’s counter cultural, he said. It’s not about living “the wow.” The wow is all the hoopla. It’s the fireworks, the Super Bowl, the World Series, the grand slam. It’s performance.

We look for that in God, just as we make celebrities out of talented people. But Jesus talks about a lifestyle of righteousness and love toward others. He warns us about the hoopla. Let’s hear it:

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.’

Let’s stop there for a minute. What is he saying? Aren’t we to listen to prophets? And isn’t the Christian life about overcoming demons? And shouldn’t we have the faith to pray for miracles?

Aren’t these things that Jesus does? Of course they are!

But are those things what make Jesus who he is?

Does Mother’s Day make someone a mother? Does Father’s Day create fathers? Does Valentine’s Day make one a good candidate for marriage? Does the wedding make good spouses out of a man and a woman?

Culture wants to say surface living leads to success. The church can be tempted to do this too. Just believe in Jesus and you will go to heaven. “Simply Christ.” If I accept Jesus to save me from my sins, my troubles are over and I will go to heaven someday. It’s all grace. But Jesus says: “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Well then, what is believing in Jesus? He tells us:

“Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.”

Then he goes on to describe what that is:

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (Matthew 7:21-27)

Did you catch that? “But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish.” If you give Jesus lip service and then live life indulging your desires, you will be in trouble because storms WILL COME. And your world will collapse.

What is the solid rock of your life? What gets you through both the joys of life and the hard stuff? What makes you say, “It is well with my soul,” in the storms? What is going to keep you from being enamored by the glitz?

Our culture says—you better be sure you have a good insurance policy to protect you. Like the ads:

*Like a good neighbor* . . . *(State Farm is there)*

*Nationwide is on . . . (your side)*

*We are Farmers . . . (bum ba dum bum bum bum bum!)*

Our culture says, you will be more secure with the impressive job, a fancy home, new car (or truck), wife, children, and chicken in every pot. But then you think, to be happy I need a bigger house, a longer vacation, a new car, a new wife . . . well, I will stop there!

Following that path is sand. The house on sand is where Jesus gets sidelined.

So build on The Rock. The Rock has been around for a very long time. The Rock will protect you.

What does your foundation look like? Is it getting shaky? Does it need to be shored up? Are you building on the rock? Or stepping away from his teachings?

Listen to every word of Jesus. Allow him to be fully Lord. Then, as you follow him, and when you eventually face him, you will not hear “Away from me! I never knew you.” Instead you will hear, “Welcome, thou good and faithful servant.”

It’s an amazing, living Rock that you stand on. Stand strong.

AMEN