

I. Intro

A. Verses 28-29

1. What we've covered is incredible and life changing.
2. Two possible outcomes
 - a. Changing/transforming life (the disciples)
 - b. Unchanged/dug in life (the pharisees)

**Every individual in the crowd has to decide a or b ...

3. If you are not growing and changing, then there might be a problem with you.

B. Today, we are going to hear Jesus and the Holy Spirit bring this truth out for you.

1. Open hands
2. Open hearts
3. Open minds

II. The two ultimate questions

A. Who are you?

1. Created by God in His image
2. Beyond creation, deeply loved by God
3. Separated at birth ... by sin

B. Whose are you?

1. You can belong to God through Jesus Christ.
2. You can belong to sin by default.

**every great Disney story, "I know that this is not where I belong ... there's more to me ... the voice inside ... blah, blah, blah ..."

III. Warning: things may not be as they appear (verses 21-23)

A. Jesus' final words: claiming it does not mean it is true.

1. Salvation and belonging are not dependent on our extensive knowledge of Christ, but on His relationship with us (Him knowing us)

**Does Jesus know you?

2. Salvation and belonging are not dependent on:
 - a. Our "Christian" vocabulary
 - b. What you've memorized
 - c. Songs you can sing - past, present, or future
 - d. Good works
 - e. Preaching, casting out demons, and miracles ...

**Our words and works are not necessarily reflective of the state of our hearts. Judas was characterized by many of these things and his heart was far from Christ - he walked with Jesus and Jesus did not know him.

3. The person Jesus knows is the person who does the will of the Father - obedience.

**So, it is works?

B. Obedience = surrender and trust

1. Surrender
 - a. 20th c. baptist pastor, Adrian Rogers

- 1) Romanian mission; asked interpreter what he thought of American Christianity
- 2) Finally, the interpreter gave in, "Well, Ok then, but you're not going to like my answer. I don't think you Americans understand what Christianity is all about. Back in the 1960s, you started to use the word 'commitment' to describe your relationship with Christ. However, any time a word comes into usage, another word goes into disuse. Until the 1960s, you Americans talked about 'surrender' to Christ. Surrender means giving up control, turning over all to the Master Jesus. By changing to the word 'commitment,' your relationship with Christ has become something you do, and therefore you are able to keep control. 'Surrender' means giving up all rights to one's self. You Americans don't like to do that, so, instead, you make a commitment."
- b. Surrender requires a deep humility that is noticeably absent from our lives.
 - 1) Following God's lead without knowing where He's sending you
 - 2) Waiting for God's timing without knowing when it will come
 - 3) Expecting a miracle without knowing how God will provide
 - 4) Trusting God's purpose without understanding the circumstances

**Surrender allows you to trust God more rather than simply to try harder.

c. Surrender lets go of ...

- 1) Defending itself
- 2) Demanding its rights
- 3) Any result other than being captive of that which was surrendered to ...

**Surrender is a personal sovereign preference for Jesus Christ himself. It is unconditional.

Q: Are you surrendered to Jesus or have you made a commitment and retain a degree of control?

2. Trust

- a. Trust means having faith that God knows what is best for your life.
 - 1) It expects God to keep His promise no matter how things look.
 - 2) It knows God will walk you through pain and problems.
 - 3) It knows that God will do the impossible when necessary for His children's transformation.
- b. Trust is the next step of a whole life surrender; obedience is incomplete without trust.
 - 1) Surrender without trust ultimately sees God as a slave owner rather than a Father.
 - 2) Trusting another requires a deep level of humility.

IV. Where is your foundation? (Verses 24-27)

A. Built upon the rock

1. Hears and surrenders
2. Does motivated from trust

B. Built upon the sand

1. Hears and catalogues
2. Does motivated from fear or to make much of self.

C. God alone will judge your profession of faith.

1. Fruit of our lives (Matthew 7:16)
 - a. The change/transformation in you
 - b. What did Jesus cost you? (What have you surrendered?)
2. Perseverance of our faith (Matthew 7:25)
 - a. True faith will outlast the storms in our lives.
 - b. True faith will be validated by God's judgment.

V. Challenge

A. What will Jesus say?

1. To you?
2. To those around you?

B. PEW Research Center (the most credible religious study organization)

1. U.S. a small village of 100 people... (2014: 245 million adults)
 - a. Evangelicals = 25
 - b. Mainline protestant = 15
 - c. Traditionally black protestant = 6
 - d. Roman Catholic = 21

**Traditional Christian faith = 67 out of 100. Does America really reflect this? Seems there are many people in churches who are not surrendered to and trusting Jesus.

2. Obedience = surrender and trust
 - a. Begins with you... Does Jesus know you by your surrender and trust?
 - b. What are you modeling for others?