

## Motivation - continued

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### **Jesus appealed to self-respect and security (7:24-27)**

Jesus told his followers that they must not simply hear his words, but hear his words and do them. He wanted them to view themselves as wise, not as foolish. One who obeys the Lord is “wise,” not “foolish”. One who obeys the Lord will be safe and secure like a house built upon the rock, not tossed about. Appealing to one’s self-respect and security will motivate today (Ephesians 4:14; 5:15; James 3:13).

### **Jesus appealed to his own authority (7:28-29)**

Jesus wanted his followers to hear him and obey him because he had authority as the divine Son of God. People are motivated by one in authority (John 7:32,45-46; 1 Corinthians 14:37-38). Appealing to Bible authority, not man-made tradition or opinion, will motivate people to obey the Lord today (Titus 2:15). Friend, are you more motivated to obey God after hearing Jesus’ words in the “Sermon on the Mount”? The possibility of heaven, pleasing God, spiritual security, and authority should motivate you today.  
- Chris Reeves -

## Sentence Sermons

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- It is better to live for Christ now, than to wish you had later.
- When the church becomes popular in the world, the world becomes prominent in the church.
- You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- Many people would like to go to heaven while taking the earth with them.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# How Jesus Motivates

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We all need motivation from time-to-time, and Jesus' well-known "Sermon on the Mount" is a motivational sermon for all of us. We will examine in this article some of the motivational points that Jesus makes in this sermon.

Do you need motivation? Everyone I know needs motivation periodically. Problems, losses, the passing of time, etc., can make a person want to quit and give up on life. This person needs motivation to carry on in life. And, with regard to our relationship to Jesus Christ, many need motivation to obey him and come out of their sin.

Some sinners need motivation to obey the gospel, and they get that through gospel preaching (Acts 2:37,41; 26:29). Some erring saints need motivation to return to Jesus and they get that through godly sorrow (Luke 15:17; Acts 8:20-23; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 7:8). Some weak Christians need motivation to grow and they get that through regular activity (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 10:25; 2 Peter 1:5; 3:18). Some strong Christians need motivation to remain strong and they get that through remembering truth (2 Peter 1:12-15).

In his "Sermon on the Mount", Jesus motivated his audience to have a proper relationship with God. Many of them were already religious, but they needed to be motivated to a better life of service to God. When Jesus preached, he not only offered the people information, he also offered them motivation (Matthew 5-7).

What is motivation? It is speech that arouses or initiates behavior. It is words used to stir up to action. One can be motivated to do evil (Mark 15:11; Acts 6:12; 13:50; 14:2; 21:27,38), or to do good (2 Corinthians 9:2). Let's examine some of the "Sermon on the Mount" to find Jesus' motivational statements.

When Jesus began preaching this sermon, the people were motivated to live better than their peers (Matthew 5:1-20). They were motivated to put truth over tradition (Matthew 5:21-48). They were motivated to be genuine (Matthew 6:1-18; 7:1-5). They were motivated to set proper, spiritual priorities (Matthew 6:19-34).

Let us now examine more closely the four motivation methods Jesus used in Matthew 7:13-29. Let us consider what he appealed to and what he did not appeal to (entertainment, personal feelings, etc.) to get his followers to have a proper relation-

ship with their heavenly Father.

## **Jesus appealed to their eternal destiny (7:13-14)**

Jesus told his followers that they were either travelling the narrow road to heaven (life), or the broad road to hell (destruction). There is no greater motivation than the two destinies of heaven and hell that await us in the future (Matthew 25:46). The hope of the beauty of heaven for the righteous motivates (Revelation 21-22) and the fear of the horror of hell for the unrighteous motivates (Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:10; 21:8). The question today is: How badly do you want to go to heaven? Are you travelling the road to heaven or to hell?

## **Jesus appealed to pleasing the Father (7:15-23)**

Jesus told his followers that they were either producing the good fruit (works), or evil fruit (works). We are known by our fruits and fruit-bearing pleases the Father (John 15:8). We not simply say "Lord, Lord", but we must do the will of the Father to please the Father (John 8:29). We obey because we want to please the Father (1 Thessalonians 4:1).  
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