

Disciple or Hearer?

The Hearers

- **James 1:22-27** The preacher James is concerned with his congregation becoming doers and not merely hearers. James followed his brother's example that the apostle John wrote in 6:53-69. Jesus knew most of those following Him were only there for the bread and miracles, so He laid down this very difficult teaching that only the true disciples received. Even they were challenged deeply, but verse 69 reveals their confession and devotion.

- **Matthew 7:21-23 is a foundational truth laid out by Jesus that separates the true from the false disciples. Many works have been done in the Name of Jesus, but they didn't emanate from the will of Jesus, or from those who had a personal relationship with Jesus. Much good has been done in Jesus' name, but it has been done to bring glory to themselves and not to the Father! We see example of this on TV everyday. I pray you have discernment for those who are wolves in sheep's clothing!**

Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus gives us an example between those who hear and act and those who hear and don't act. Acting on Jesus' teaching that is built on His foundational truths will withstand everything the world throws at us. Not acting on Scriptural truth is compared to a foundation built on sand. It isn't solid. They have built a foundation, but it was one built either on their own ideas or a religious one. Neither one is Biblical!

The Doers

- **2 Corinthians 13:5 reveals a command to test yourself. Against what? Scripture! If your faith is scriptural faith, then you will pass the test. If your faith is lacking, weak, or faulty, then you are not in the faith. Only the Holy Spirit can help you test yourself. If you hear, "yes, you are pleasing to your Lord," then you pass. If you hear no voice except your own, you have failed. If you fail, let that speak to you! Repent and turn to the Lord and invite Him in, and ask Him to help you pass the next test.**

- **Romans 8:1-14 is Paul giving a lengthy teaching on being in the flesh verses being in the Spirit. I will speak on this Sunday, but read through this passage and let it speak to you. Let this passage test you. Is Christ DWELLING IN you, or are you just walking in the flesh hoping you're being good enough to enter heaven. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Verse 14 is the revealer of the test. Led by the Spirit? You are a child of the Savior!**

- **Galatians 2:20 is my life verse. I have been crucified IN Christ. I no longer live, but Christ lives IN me. What a promise and blessing!**
- **Ephesians 3:14-21 is a personal note from Paul to us. Humility and encouragement to us that we need to hear. Christ DWELLING IN our hearts. And the love of Christ that is being lavished upon us. Beautiful! All to His glory.**
- **Colossians 1:24-29 Paul again reveals his purpose in life: to build up THE church. The mystery? Verse 27, Christ IN us! What a work he had striving to build a body of believers.**

The Easter Purpose

- **Why would I talk about this subject on Easter? Because only true disciples can appreciate what Jesus did for us on Good Friday and Sunday morning. Only we can worship Him in Spirit and Truth on Easter morning. You are the doers, believers, followers, and able to celebrate the life that lives within you.**
- **Hearers can only stand in their human reasoning and celebrate Easter like it is a child's birthday. There may be excitement there, but it is only a fleeting feeling. There is no depth of meaning there. Emptiness. Ours is FULL!**

Communion/Lord's Supper

- **So let's now celebrate Communion together.**
- **Take out your bread and juice and join me.**

- **Let's close with our song, "Family of God."**
- **Bless you all and have a wonderful rest of your Easter day.**