

“Admirers or Followers?”

Matthew 7:24-29

Intro:

The Sermon on the Mount ends with three warnings:

- 1) Gates and paths – *one wide and the other narrow*
- 2) Good and bad fruit – *false sheep and shepherds*
- 3) Two builders – *one wise and one foolish*

- These three warnings are ultimately trying to get at this question: “*Am I a follower of this Rabbi named Jesus, or just an admirer?*”

In this section we have the distinction between those who actually follow, and those who simply admire. Here the line is drawn, a distinction is made between the many, *or the multitude*, who go, “**Wow!**” and the few who follow His way of living, and loving, and being, and becoming actually like Him.

- *Out of that desire, there were some who began to rearrange their lives in order to be able to put their feet where He was putting His.*

Jesus was *constantly, inviting people* who were in the multitude, *pressing people*, and *forcing people* who were in the multitude to decide...

Will they move from admirer to follower? Will they step out from the multitude, from the many, and become part of the few?

- The problem is this: Some in this multitude of people, *who really like Jesus*, have no intention whatsoever of actually following Jesus' way.

We need to ask ourselves, “*Am I a follower, or just an admirer?*”

Beloved, Jesus isn't looking for admirers, or a large group of hearers, or correct confessors who say, “Lord, Lord...” He is looking for followers who will do what He says, particularly when He says, “Recalculate your route. It's time to execute a U-turn so I can bring you home, and introduce you to a different kind of life, a different way of life. But you are going to have to follow Me.”