

FUSION Q's... Becoming an Apprentice 7: Following the Master

Discussion Questions

Q1. What is the significance of Jesus' story about the 2 builders that Pastor Chris talked about?

Q2. Why do you think Jesus is so insistent on being a smart builder? What is it that he seems to know that we don't?

Q3. Which builder are you? Is your life headed for a wreck or have you placed your trust in Jesus who will guide you through the storms of life?

Read James 1:19-25

Q4. Why do you think it is important to be slow to speak and slow to anger but quick to listen?

Q5. What is the "word God has planted in your hearts"? How can this word save you?

Q6. We have just completed a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Rate yourself on how you think you are doing at putting into practice what you have heard. Share your thoughts with the group.

Q7. According to James, you fool yourself by simply listening to what you hear in God's word but not doing it. This is a habit we're all guilty of. What steps can you take to avoid this in the future?

Read Revelation 3:15-21

Q8. In this passage God is encouraging us to live a life that is centered on him. We may not see it, but without him we have absolutely nothing – we are poor and destitute. He calls us to make a decision as the final imagery of Jesus knocking at a door suggests. In the clip from the Lord of the Rings, Sam says "It's the farthest away from home I've ever been." It is at this point Sam must decide whether he is going to go on to great adventure or turn back to what he has always known and is comfortable with. We have come to the same point with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. You must decide whether to trust Jesus' message and move on into unknown and uncharted territory in your faith or go back to

following your own way and ultimately choose sin and death. Are you ready to become a full-out apprentice of Jesus? Are you going to begin to put into action Jesus' words on how to live a full life – the life of an apprentice of Jesus, or do you have reservations? Discuss what things may be holding you back and what you can do to overcome them.

Bible Passages for Fusion Discussion

James 1:19-25 (NLT – p.735)

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

Revelation 3:15-21 (NLT – p.751)

¹⁵ "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference

²⁰ "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. ²¹ Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

²² "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."