

**Thirty-Five – Week 6**  
**Bible – Ben Foote**  
**October 10, 2021**

**Group Creed**

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

**// Bible References**

Matthew 7:24-28; Hebrews 4:12

**// Message Summary**

This week Ben explains why reading the Bible is an important part of our [35 Day Challenge](#); it's the best way to get to know who God is and what He has to say to help us figure out life. One of the most famous sermons that Jesus gave appears in the first book of the New Testament, Matthew chapters 5-7. Jesus concluded His Sermon on the Mount with a parable, which has been described as an earthly story with a spiritual meaning. In the parable of the two foundations (Matthew 7:24-28) we learn something about the value of God's word in our lives. Ben explained the meaning of the parable and how putting the teachings of Jesus into practice can make a big difference, particularly when life is hard on us.

**// Biblical & Historical Context**

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and was meticulously copied by Jewish scribes for more than a thousand years. The Bible we have today is surprisingly not much different than the written copies compiled in the second and third century. We know this because copies of the scriptures dating back to the first century BC were found in jars in a cave at Qumran, Israel. This was the 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Hundreds of manuscripts were found in the caves of that area representing almost every book of the Old Testament.

The New Testament was written in Greek and completed in the first century. There is much historical evidence to support the accuracy of these early texts as well. In 325 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine convened a council of church leaders to begin to put together the books of Bible. Sometime in the 7<sup>th</sup> century the Bible was first translated into English, although we might not recognize it because the English language is much different now. In the late middle-ages, about a hundred years after the invention of the printing press, King James of England commissioned a new translation of the Bible, the King James version many of us read today.

The New Testament explains God's plan – how the awesome life, death and resurrection of Jesus saves all mankind and makes possible our relationship with Him. Matthew is the first of four Gospel biographies that tells us about Jesus life on earth, His teachings and His miracles. Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus tracing his Jewish ancestry back to King David and the patriarch Abraham. Because it was written to a mostly Jewish audience, it provides many

references to the Old Testament. Both the written scriptures and the spoken words of Jesus, tell one continuous story of God's love for us and invite us to the abundant life He offers.

### // Community Questions

1. What was the last good book you read?
2. Do you have a favorite book of the bible or favorite bible story?

### // Discussion Questions

1. How's it going with the 35 Day Challenge? Share something that was meaningful to you from the daily bible readings.
2. Throughout Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He teaches on all kinds of topics. Open your bible to Matthew chapters 5-7 and read some of the paragraph headings.
  - a. Do any of these seem relevant to modern day life?
  - b. Does Jesus teach anything that applies to your life now?
3. For most of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks in plain language. Why do you think Jesus chose to end His Sermon on the Mount with a parable?
4. Read Matthew 7:24-28. Ben pointed out the difference between the two builders: the wise hears and practices / the foolish hears and does not practice. When you have 'heard' or read something Jesus has said, what helps you put it into practice?
5. Read Hebrews 4:12. Can you think of any decision you have made or action you have taken because of something you read in the Bible?

### // Challenge

Read and meditate on Jesus words in His Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew chapters 5-7. Ask God to help you understand what you are reading and find one way to practice putting your faith into action during the coming week.