

FLIPP3D.

DEVOTIONAL

The Flipside of Nothing | Matthew 7:13-29

By Roger Sappington, Global Impact Pastor

I am a child of the '80s! I played with Transformers and GI Joes, while my sister watched Punky Brewster. I kept time on a Swatch, chilled at the roller skating rink and traded baseball cards. I also listened to great music like Def Leppard, Van Halen and Bon Jovi.

When my wife and I started dating in 2005, she surprised me with tickets to Bon Jovi, who had reunited for a worldwide tour. The concert was awesome! Starting with *Livin' on a Prayer* and coming back for an encore of *Wanted Dead or Alive*, Bon Jovi rocked the casbah (google it)! Everyone left thinking it was the best concert they had ever been to and that Bon Jovi was definitely the best rock band of the '80s.

If I'm not careful, I can find myself treating the Sermon on the Mount like the Bon Jovi concert. I give "standing ovations" to the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer and the Golden Rule. *Rock on Jesus!* I listen to Christ's words and proclaim Him to be the all-time greatest of teachers. I read the Sermon on the Mount and conclude it's the most amazing message ever given. *Man, that was awesome!* I find myself becoming a fan and totally miss the point.

Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount to bring about obedience in His disciples, not to wow a crowd. He was not interested in the applause of men. Knowing that men have the propensity to be fans rather than disciples, Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount with some sober words, "*And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it*" (Matthew 7:13, 26-27). Jesus declared that the man who had admiration for Him but did not obey his words was a fool! The end result of his life being destruction!

Lord, you do not desire fans. You have no place for them in Your Kingdom. You call men to give you their lives not their applause. You call men to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow you. You demand a response. You draw a line in the sand. You force a decision. Life or destruction. The hard way or the easy way. You or the world. Help me to always make the better choice. In Jesus' name.

Roger graduated from The University of Texas at Austin and earned a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2006. Roger has served in full-time ministry since 2002 including roles as Associate Minister of Missions at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, TX and Director of Spiritual Development for H.I.S. BridgeBuilders in Dallas, TX. Roger has a heart for people to know Jesus. He has been blessed to proclaim Christ's name in India, Taiwan, Mexico, Latvia, Brazil, England, Romania and Ethiopia. He also has extensive inner-city ministry experience. Roger's passion is to equip believers to live missional lives. He and his wife, Kelly, have been married since 2006. They have two sons, Colin and Brady.