

Landing the plane is a common metaphor among preachers and those who teach preachers how to preach. It is a reference to ending the talk or sermon well. We come now to the concluding parts of Jesus sermon. He lands the plane in a clear and compelling way. In light of all that He has taught about the new life found in following Him, Jesus now draws His focus and our attention to the solid ground of truth that we must respond to.

Note the word pictures and pairs Jesus uses to draw the reader to a clear commitment to this new life of following Him as Lord:

Jesus concludes His teaching about the new life that God gives to those who follow Jesus by offering a summary, issuing a summons, and giving a warning. These are helpful and hope producing reminders for the follower of Jesus to renew and refresh their faith. These are effective guidelines for the unbeliever to consider and follow as they choose which kingdom to pursue.

The Summary. Others 7:12

The Christian life can be summarized in terms of behavior toward God and others.

The dominant question for kingdom people is . . . do I love God and people. Is this a mark of your life?

The Summons. Exclusive 7:13-14

The Christian life begins with an exclusive invitation that defines the nature of the Christian life.

Have you found a blessed and satisfied life through the narrow gate and the hard way of Jesus Christ?

The warning. Opposition 7:15-20

The Christian life is often counterfeited, so we must learn to test it for genuineness.

Is your assurance, confidence, and hope in Christ alone rather than your own religious performance?

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16