

***“The wise man built
his house upon the
rock”***

**The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 7:21-29**



Mathew 5-7

- Sermon on the Mount - detailed and far reaching
- ... Marriage, enemies, praying, fasting, money, forgiving, worrying, judging, hypocrisy ...
- But throughout, Jesus contrasts outward profession of faith with internal transformation



Mathew 5-7

final climactic words

- But at the conclusion, Jesus switches tack
- Suddenly it's all about narrow roads, false disciples ... & this strange little story
- Why a story?
- Foundational matters
- “Therefore ...”



Listen to Matthew 7

True and false disciples

'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"'

Wise and foolish builders

'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.'

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,



Listen to Matthew 7 (again!)

Knowing the correct password—saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance— isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this!





Everybody builds a house

Everybody builds a house (a character)

- We are ALWAYS building
- One kind of house
 - Anger
 - Hurting
 - Habitually giving in to temptation ...
 - *Always listening ... but never being changed*



We're building a house

Everybody builds a house (a character)

- Another kind of house
 - We ARE angry but ...
 - We manage to hold on to those hurtful words
 - We resist temptation ... OR we confess our failure
 - We don't just listen for entertainment – we ask God to change us
- BOTH builders represent US



We're building a house



Everybody builds a house

- Not by simply listening but when we decide what to **DO** with **Jesus' words**
- On the beach ... or on a rock ...



1.

Everybody builds a house

2.

Every house gets hit by the storm

Every house gets hit by the storm

- God doesn't come to check how our house looks
- The storm comes (not British drizzle!)
- 2 kinds of storm
- We cant predict them
 - Storms can be hard
 - ... and harder still
- Storms can include life events and temptation
- And come from every direction



Pause to think about ... storms

- Why do some people have much more severe storms than others?
- ... Why me ? (or why not me?)
- So .. when it comes to life's traumatic events, what exactly is "the deal" for believers? ...



Jesus doesn't promise to take us out of the storm

- But he will anchor us
- God can hold us in the storm – nothing to do with you holding on to him ...
- In the end there are questions we simply can't answer ...





1.

Everybody builds a house

2.

Every house gets hit by the storm

3.

After the storm, there is only one question

After the storm, what did your house look like?

- “God only has one question – not about décor or home improvements
- Did we build on the rock that God supplied?
- Some houses not built on rock – CRASH!!
- Other houses stay standing but they are not all the same



Houses that stand

1. Standing perfect. The storm came in but the rock of discipleship stayed true – tall and upright
2. Significant damage ... but still standing! God loves it that your house was built on the rock
3. Still others torn apart a terrible toll...and deep questions remain but the foundations stayed true

“Good and faithful servant”!



Sermon on the Mount - in closing

1. Everybody builds a house
 - What we do with Jesus' words
2. Every house gets hit by the storm
 - For some the storms are worse – for ALL of us they shape us
3. After the storm there is a question
 - Obedience and a personal relationship with Jesus

***What kind of house
will you build today?***

