

A Home Built to Last

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents a picture of the ordinary life of His disciples-while at the same time demonstrating how radically different that life appears to the rest of the world. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon are an impossible task to follow on our own. Jesus closes out His sermon with a picture of two builders, and two foundations.

Everyone builds their lives on something. The wise man builds on a rock. God is described as a Rock of His people in the Old Testament. The wise man digs down deep to lay a good foundation. The wise person is the person who comes to Jesus, hears His commands and obeys them. Remember, you can never obey God or please God apart from faith. So, we can rightly recognize the wise man is also someone who came to Jesus in repentance in faith or poor in spirit. The wise man builds his life on Jesus and His teaching. The foolish man builds his life on anything else there is no middle ground. The foolish man hears the words of Jesus, but hearing isn't enough. Jesus said that mere works is not enough to prove that the heart has been changed. A wise man comes to Jesus in faith, repenting of sin and trusting Him as Savior, and builds his house (marriage) on the foundation of Jesus and His word.

Storms in Old Testament are a symbol for God's judgment. Is your marriage built on a rock foundation or a sand foundation, and can it weather the storm? God declares that judgment for sin will come as a storm does. This storm represents the "Storm of Life", and having a foundation in Christ keeps you firm in troubles and struggles of life in a broken world. You will face the storm, but you will not collapse. The question arises, will your house (marriage) stand? If Jesus is your foundation, He will secure you against destruction, but anyone who is outside of Christ has no such protection from God's wrath. We come to Jesus and build our lives on Him because we are sinners who have earned every drop of the storm and Jesus is our only hope of salvation.

The passage serves as a final exhortation to the Sermon on the Mount, urging listeners to move beyond mere hearing to active doing, for only these who obey will be truly wise.

"Everyone who hears my teaching and applies it to his life can be compared to a wise man who built his house on an unshakable foundation. When the rain fell and the flood came, with fierce winds beating upon his house, it stood firm because of its strong foundation. But everyone who hears my teaching and does not apply it to his life can be compared to a foolish man who built his house on sand. When it rained and rained and the flood came, with wind and waves beating upon his house, it collapsed and was swept away."

Matthew 7:24-27

STUDY COMPANION WEEK SIX

Understanding



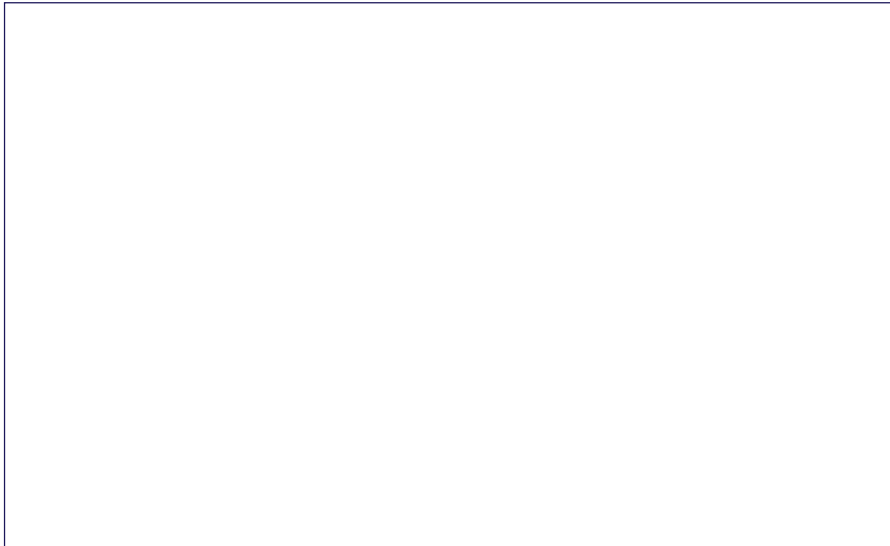
**"A HOME BUILT
TO LAST"**

MESSAGE NOTES & VERSES

WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE THIS WEEK TO
APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED AS A COUPLE?



OUR PRAYERS



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth."*

Psalm 121:1-2

NOTES

