

Christians Build Their Lives Wisely in the Midst of a Pandemic

Matthew 7:24-27



Main Idea: Jesus challenges us to be wise builders who hear and obey His words and live in His kingdom forever!

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us:

1. How to _____ of the Kingdom of God
2. How to _____ the Kingdom of God

In Matthew 7:13-27, Jesus gives the _____ to the sermon. There are two ways to live your life and they have drastically different outcomes. He presents:

1. Two _____ (vv. 13-14): one that leads to life and one that leads to destruction
2. Two _____ (vv. 15-23): one that leads to life and one that leads to destruction
3. Two _____ (vv. 24-27): one that leads to life and one that leads to destruction

Jesus gives us three details about building our lives on one of two foundations:

1. Each builder _____ the words of Jesus
2. Each builder _____ to the words of Jesus

The contrast between the two types of builders begins with the way each responds to the words of Jesus

- Acts on them vs. doesn't act on them
- Wise builder vs. foolish builder
- Rock foundation vs. Sand foundation

3. Each builder _____ the results of their response to the words of Jesus
 - Our _____ is revealed by the storm
 - Our _____ is determined by our foundation

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REMEMBER

1. The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7 is Jesus' teaching on what life is like in the Kingdom of God. Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and transformed to know and live like Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus gives the invitation to His sermon in Matthew 7:13-27. He offers three contrasts that show us there are only two ways to live (two gates, two guides, and two foundations).
3. Jesus IS the rock upon which we are called to build our lives. His righteousness is put on our account and by His Spirit we are made righteous.
4. Citizens of the Kingdom of God hear and obey Jesus' words because we trust Jesus, our King!

REFLECT

1. Matthew 7:24 begins with the word, *Therefore*. What did Jesus say prior to these verses that are the basis for what He teaches in v. 24-27?
2. Read Matthew 7:13-27. What are the three contrasts and how do they all emphasize the same basic idea?
3. In verses 25 & 27, Jesus mentions the rains falling, the rivers rising and the winds blowing and pounding against the houses. What two realities is this storm pointing us to? (Hint: the Already/Not Yet nature of the Kingdom of God.)
4. Relative to the last question, what is the significance of the *collapse* that doesn't happen for the wise builder and the *collapsed with a great crash* that happens for the foolish builder?

RESPOND

1. Take some time to thank God for giving us clear teaching on how to enter into the Kingdom of God and showing us what life is like for Kingdom citizens. Either write down or share with your group how you were a foolish builder and God has made you a wise builder.
2. Think about a time when you obeyed God's commands when it was particularly difficult (and you were tempted to disobey). Either write it down or share it with your group and thank God for the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to transform us.
3. Pray for God to reveal areas of your life where your foundation is faulty. In other words, what areas in your life do you know God's teaching but are not living according to it? Confess these to God and either write them down or confess them to your group and pray for one another.
4. Write down or discuss ways in which you are facing the temporal storms that expose the foundations upon which you have built your life right now. Take some time to pray for one another to remain strong and continue in faith to obey God's Word.
5. Commit to reach out to someone who is experiencing the foundation-revealing storms in their life this week. Ask someone in your group to keep you accountable to make the contact.
6. Finish up discussing or reflecting on the real storm of God's judgment when Jesus Christ returns. If you are not building your life upon the Rock of Christ, repent and trust Jesus Christ as your substitute and the only sure foundation you can build your life upon.