

Tale of Two Plans

I. Wise or Foolish

James 1:5 (NIV84®)

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

A. Jesus' Counsel

Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV84®)

²⁴“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. ²⁵The 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. ²⁶But 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. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

B. Jesus' Warning

Luke 12:15–21 (NIV84®)

¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’ ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

C. Responding in a New World

Revelation 21:4–5 (NIV84®)

⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

II. Battle Plan

A. Be Alert —Humility to Learn

Matthew 25:13 (NIV84®)

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

B. Lack of Awareness/Refusal to Listen

Luke 17:26–27 (NIV84®)

²⁶ “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

Genesis 6:5 (NIV84®)

The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Isaiah 63:10 (NIV84®)

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

2 Peter 2:1–10 (NIV84®)

¹ But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— ⁹ **if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials** and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.

C. Engagement Training

1. Grief, remorse over what is forfeited; the cost of conflict
2. Hope & Faith; hope is the infrastructure (skeletal system) of faith
3. Movement, the necessity of implementation

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NIV84®)

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to

comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, **the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.** They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

III. Springtime of Opportunity

Acts 5:42 (NIV84®)

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Opportunities:

- ❖ Easter —Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- ❖ Sat evening Festival —6 weeks of Saturday evening concerts, food trucks & God’s Word

The Objective:

Let’s Talk . . . a faith conversation every day

Prayer

Almighty God

We constantly pray, that You may count us worthy of Your calling, and that by Your power You may fulfill every good purpose and every act prompted by our faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 (NIV84®)