

## Week #39 | “Are You Astonished At Jesus’ Teaching?”

### I. INTRODUCTION (MATT. 7:24-29)

- A. Well, we’ve reached the conclusion of the Sermon on The Mount. Today we will look at Jesus’ final words to those that gathered around Him.
- B. But over the past few weeks we’ve been hearing Jesus concluding His sermon through a progression of thoughts that have their climax in these final words. Whatever might have been somewhat vague in the previous three examples (**Matthew 7:13-14**—*Two gates*, **15-20**—*Two trees*, **21-23**—*two professions*) is going to be cleared up with EXPLICIT WORDS that bring finality to His conclusion.
- C. Look, some people hear this final story that Jesus is telling and think to themselves, “*This is about two Christians, who are simply choosing to live their lives differently.*” But this couldn’t be further from the truth.
- D. This isn’t like, “*Wow, you know Hank, it’s really not the best idea to build this new house of yours’s on the sand, but you can totally do it if you’d like. It might be just fine, but I don’t know. It would sure be a shame if you and Susan lost your new house and all that investment to the coming storm season.*”
  1. Friends, this final example is about a wise builder who is in Christ, and another foolish builder who is lost and far from Christ.
- E. Jesus is telling us the same thing He’s been saying now for four weeks, salvation isn’t found in only hearing His words, it’s found in responding to His words in obedience to them.
- F. The wise builder is the one who heard Jesus and responded in obedience, and the foolish builder is the one who also heard the same words from Jesus, but never responded in obedience to them.

### II. A LIFE BUILT ON THE ROCK (MATTHEW 7:24-25)

1. **Matthew 7:24-25** “*Therefore whoever hears these words of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house: and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*”
- B. Well, the entire Sermon on The Mount is contingent upon this transitional word, THEREFORE. This word, and everything that follows from Jesus is the crux, the focal point, the central theme of Jesus’ sermon.
- C. The idea is, “*In light of everything that I’ve said, the past 2.5 chapters, here’s what’s got to happen. You gotta make the choice, what type of builder will you be, one that’s wise or one that’s foolish.*”
- D. Well, according to Christ, wisdom is HEARING the words of Jesus, AND DOING them. This alone is what constitutes wisdom in the mind of God.
- E. And if we do them, Jesus says we are a wise builder, who rightly builds their house on the rock.
  1. What is the rock, what type of material is this? It’s important to know because Jesus we are either wise or foolish, depending on this one thing.

2. What is the rock? Well, we know it's the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on The Mount. But when it's boiled down, what is the rock?
3. If you remember, in **Matthew 16:13-20** Jesus asked the some of the disciples who men around them say that He is. And it's there that we have Peter's famous response, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*"
4. Jesus responds and says to Peter, "*...You are Peter (Petros), and on this rock (Petra) I will build My Church and the gates of hell (hades) won't prevail against it.*"
5. I think that Jesus is saying, "*Peter, upon your revelation of who I am, upon this enlightened, from heaven, from My Father revelation that I'm God's divine Son, sent from above to the earth, I will build/advance or promote growth in your ministry, or through your life.*"
6. Beloved, the rock is Christ Himself, which for sure includes His teachings. But listen, some people think that they can build their lives on the teaching alone, without knowing Him. They think they can do it by doctrine alone, by theology alone, by denomination alone, by degree alone. This is to build on sand.
7. If the teachings that we know about Christ, never actually lead us to Christ, to intimacy with Him, to proximity to Him, to nearness with Him, to transformation, is deception and it's soon to crumble.
  - a. **John 1:10-11** "*He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*"
  - b. **John 5:39-40** "*You search the scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*"
8. Building our lives on the rock means that our money is regulated by Christ, our parenting is regulated by Christ, our desire to stay unspotted from the world is regulated by Christ. Building our lives on the rock, means that our kids are being raised around Christ. Building our lives on the rock means that we are the same person around our co-workers and neighbors and friends, as we are the Church folk.
9. This is what it means to be a wise builder, a builder who's building their lives on the rock!

### III. SIMILARTIES AND DIFFERENCES (MATT. 7:26-27)

1. **Matthew 7:26-27** "*But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house: and it fell. And great was its fall.*"
- B. Well, even in the limited amount of information we get from Jesus, there's still some similarities and differences that we can see between the wise and foolish builders:
- C. SIMILARITIES
1. They Both Desired To Build Houses—They both had a desire to build a house for their families, a house where they could keep their things, a house where they could enjoy safety, a house where they could be at ease, in a world gone crazy, and streets and cities that aren't safe, here in their houses, they were safe.

2. They Built Their Houses In Proximity To Each Other—It's clear through Jesus' words that their houses were close to each other. The reason we know this is because they both experienced similar things, they both had weather that came against them that was similar.
  - a. The idea is that they both attended the same teaching, they are living in proximity together, doing things that are similar to one another.
3. They Built Similar Houses—From Jesus' very words we can see that they built houses that looked the same. The only thing we know for sure is their foundation was different.
  - a. I think it's safe to assume they had similar houses, similar windows, chimneys, porches, front doors, and roofs. The only thing different that wasn't visible from the curb, was the foundation.
4. They Both Received A Storm—Look, they both experienced Gail force winds, heavy rains and flood waters. The challenges of life in this age confront everyone, sometimes in a PNW drizzle and other times in a Floridian tropical storm/hurricane.
  - a. Being a wise builder doesn't remove us from suffering, hardship, challenges, pressure, and tribulation. Being a wise builder only ensures that when pressures come, either now are at the Lord's return, we won't be washed away!

D. DIFFERENCES

1. The Foolish Builder Didn't Listen To Anyone—The wise builder is taking everything in, with a posture of being taught, of learning, while the foolish builder knows everything, he knows enough to get himself in trouble.
    - a. Look, the pressures of life will come to everyone, therefore we can't wait to warn the foolish sand builders around us at the end, we have to talk to Hank and Susan now, we have to warn those that are starting in Christ, that are interested that they need a solid foundation.
  2. The Foolish Builder Is In A Hurry—The foolish builder is in a hurry building his house, not taking the time that's needed, just rushing into it, not thinking it through, exited in the moment but not considering everything.
    - a. The foolish builder isn't consider that the dry-ish river bed in the summertime is nice to look at, but in the fall/winter it might become a raging torrent that will destroy his house.
    - b. This hurried man want's God's blessing, but he doesn't really want God. He wants what comes from God, but He doesn't really want to come to God. He wants comfort, but not conviction. He wants a great leader, but he doesn't want to follow.
    - c. **Luke 7:47-48** *“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like; He is like a man building a house, who DUG DEEP and laid the foundation on the rock...”*
- E. Well, the greatness of the house's fall, isn't like , *“Wow, that's super great.”* When Jesus said, *“...The floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was it's fall”* He was taking about the greatness of what's at stake, the eternal consequences of a life lived hearing, but never doing.

#### IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWO BUILDERS

##### A. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WISE BUILDER

1. They Takes Jesus' Words In Their Entirety—The wise builder is the one who takes all of it in, not just portions of it. He hears the Sermon on The Mount, repents, and asks for God's grace to take all of it in.
  - a. The wise builder is hung up at the first beatitude, realizing that weakness, a confession of need for God's help is the only way forward.
2. They Desire To Live It Out—A wise builder desires to live out the Sermon on the mount, not perfectly, but devotedly, with passion, wholeheartedly.
  - a. The Sermon on the mount isn't asking are you perfect; it's asking, what do you desire to be? Do you love Me? Do you desire Me? Do you want Me? Am I your passion? Am I the object of your affection? Then, follow Me! Walk with Him. Come near Me!
3. They Are Patient—A wise builder is the one who is digging down deep, who is taking the time to set a foundation that won't only help them, but will help them leave a legacy behind, for generations to come.

##### B. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FOOLISH BUILDER

1. They Don't Like The Sermon On The Mount—They don't like to be bothered with it. They don't like that the Sermon on The Mount examines them. They don't like that Sermon on Mount makes demands upon their lives. They don't like that the Sermon On The Mount calls for truth in the inward parts of their lives. It's too complicated, takes too much time to figure it out.
2. They Hear It, But Quickly Forget It—They listen to it, they stick around long enough to conclude it, but not to practice it. It's received, but there's no follow through.
3. They Are In A Hurry—They simply want to do something, not for long periods, but for a moment. They don't want to take long enough to get an architect, they don't want to survey the land, they don't want to draw up plans, they don't want to consider how the elements might affect their house, they just want to build it.

#### V. CONCLUSION

1. **Matthew 7:28-29** "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."
- B. The idea here is that they were *dumbfounded, struck, in awe or amazed, struck out of their senses, struck out of themselves*. But why?
- C. People in Jesus' day were accustomed to teaching. This wasn't a new thing. They were even accustomed to the religious authority of the scribes. So what was so different?
- D. The scribes taught the scriptures, but their right to speak was based on their ability to quote scripture or subsequent Jewish teachers and tradition. On the other hand, Jesus quotes scripture in His sermon only to reinterpret it, while at the same time citing no human authors, authorities, or tradition. He's speaking not as one quoting the words, but as One who originally spoke the words.

- E. Look it's not that they were struck by the structure of the sermon, or the balance in which the Sermon On The Mount brings, they weren't touched by His placement of sentences, and the variety of topics He covered, they are touched by Him! God has thundered to His creation, through the incarnated Christ, God in the flesh, dwelling among His people! Jesus doesn't need to cite authors because He is the author. This is what's capturing their hearts!
- F. Remember in **Matthew 5**, when Jesus said so many times, "*you've heard it said, like you've heard the religious leaders around you basically misquoting the Bible, well, I say to! You think that Moses was the law giver? I'm the one that gave the law to Moses. I'm the true law-giver. I'm the true interpreter of the law. I'll tell you what God's desire was behind what Moses said.*"
- G. Listen to a couple of these shocking statements Jesus made in the Sermon on The Mount:
1. **Matthew 5:11**—*Blessed are you when your persecuted for My name's sake...not for the teaching, or the preaching, but for Me.*
  2. **Matthew 5:13-16**—*You are the salt of the earth, and the light of the world...you who listen to Me, you who keep My teachings, you who follow Me, even unto death through persecution, if need be, You are the ONLY LIGHT OF THE WORLD!*
  3. **Matthew 7:21**—*Not everyone who says to Me Lord Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven! Not everyone that says, Jehovah Jehovah! He's clearly stating that He has no problem with people referring to Himself as equal with Jehovah, with the Lord of the Old Testament.*
  4. **Matthew 7:23**—*Many will say to Me in that day...What? He's also the judge on that final day for humanity. Yes, the Bible says that the Father has committed all judgment to the Son! Jesus makes clear, it's Me who will be the final judge of your life on that final day.*
- H. With all other teachers, the important thing about them is their teaching. But with Jesus it's different. It's not just the teaching that's important, it's the Teacher!
- I. The sermon on the mount isn't asking if you are sinless or perfect; it's asking what you would like to be, what you desire to be? It's not asking are you doing it perfectly, it's asking do you desire to do it at all? Are you moving in this direction?
- J. What do you need to do in light of the teaching? Do you need to confess that you've been living a double life? Do you need to confess that you assume your okay, although your far from God? Is there sins that you have that you haven't repented of?