

Essentials

Foundations

Matthew 7:24-29

October 8, 2017 am

HDBC

Open your Bibles to Matthew 7:24-29. Continuing our series on ***The Sermon on the Mount***. In it, Jesus lays out the ***Essential Expectations*** for those who follow Him as savior and Lord. For the most part the Sermon on the Mount is not about how to be saved, but how the saved are to live.

At this point in the text there is no new topic to consider. Jesus brings it to a burning conclusion and calls for a commitment. It was His ***alter call***, His ***invitation to respond***. Jesus made it clear that it was not enough to hear the words of Jesus. One must act upon those words.

What we do with the teachings of Jesus will determine the kind of life we are building and the kind of destiny that we can expect. Jesus wants you and I to build solid lives, and that begins by laying solid foundations. Note three contrasting pairs.

1. Two Builders

Jesus indicates that we are all like builders. Every act and deed builds upon the structure of our lives. But not all builders do things in the same way. Notice that Jesus leaves room for only two kinds of builders, not three or four. Only two: **Wise and Foolish.**

A. Wise

People define wisdom in number of ways:

1. **Education** - Continues to learn. Years ago an 83 year old Michigan woman attended a Sunday School conference. Traveled all night on a bus to get there. She was asked why go to all that trouble. Her answer: ***To learn something that would make me a better teacher.*** Taught junior high students in a church of only 65. Over the years that she taught she had 84 boys enter full time ministry.
2. **Money** - The wise man is the one who plans for the future.

3. **Speech** - Saying the right thing at right time. Like the man who was trying to teach wife to play golf. Asked how it went. *It was fine, but it was not easy to say 'nice shot honey, 142 times.*

4. **How does Jesus define wisdom?**

The wise man is the one who not only hears his words, but acts upon them. Obeys them, bends his life to them, lives them.

There were two men in the 16th century who came to the same conclusion about salvation. After serious study of the N T they both understood that salvation came by faith alone, rather than the rituals of the church. It was faith alone in Christ alone. Both named Martin.

Martin Baal wrote down his understanding of salvation by faith, folded the paper and hid it behind a stone wall in a monastery.

Martin Luther wrote down his understanding of salvation by faith and publicly nailed them to the front door of the church at Wittenberg.

Two men with the same name, who knew the same truth. But history only remembers the one who **acted upon the truth he knew**.

B. Foolish

One who hears the word, but does not act upon it. This person has a head knowledge but no action to go with it. Failure to act on it.



Harry Truman (not the president) lived his entire life in a beautiful mountain setting in the Northwest part of this country. One day he was told he needed to move because the mountain was going to blow up. He refused to leave. And when the mountain, which was actually an active volcano named Mount St. Helens, blew up, so did Harry Truman.

He heard the words, but failed to act upon them.

The Sermon on the Mount is not to be admired, but to be obeyed.

2. Two Foundations

A. Stone

The wise person living in the Palestinian desert would erect a dwelling on a secure rock to protect the house from the flash floods that sudden storms created. He would dig below the loose gravel and sand until he hit a firm rock plate. He would then build his house upon that.

Some things never change. The foundation of a building is vitally important. Without a solid foundation, you will not have a secure home.

B. Sand

The foolish person would build directly on the sand and loose gravel that was on the surface of the ground. That weak foundation will cause problems for the entire building.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the classic example. It began to lean soon after construction began. This was due to the soft ground on one side.

3. Two Futures

The day of reckoning arrives. The rain pours and the wind blows. Each man enters his house for safety. At this point the radical difference is seen.

One stands and the other falls.

When the storms come, the foundation makes all the difference in the world. When the marriage gets hard, when the finances get tight, when health fails, when the kids rebel. If you are acting on the truth you will stand!

The person whose life is **built upon obedience to the teachings of Jesus** by being obedient to them will stand the storms of life.

The person whose life is **not built on obedience to His teachings** will fall.

The sermon ends with a call for a radical submission to Jesus Christ as Lord. Submission to Jesus as Lord leads to a life of obedience to His word. When we act on His words, not just hearing them, we will find stability, perseverance and victory in our lives.

This is not just a reference to dealing with the difficulties of this life. The ultimate storm comes at death. The key question is what happens when you die. Will the life you build stand or will it fall?

His words ring eternally true. He is the only way. All other options are doomed. Not speaking here simply of financial ruin, or of emotional collapse, but of eternal doom. What makes this **fall great** is the fact that there will be no other chances. Permanent destruction.

Reminded of the statement in the New Testament . . .

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Here is an important point that I don't want you to miss.

Both houses looked exactly alike. They picture two kinds of people. They look exactly the same. Maybe they both have families. Both go to church, kids go to the same schools, and play on the same soccer teams. Both go to work each day to take care of their families and enjoy similar hobbies.

But one has been wise and the other **foolish**. One has built his or her life on a solid foundation and the other on sand. You can only tell the difference when the storms come. The storms reveal the truth. Storms come in many varieties:

Financial, Medical, Relationships, Tragedies, Natural disasters, etc.

The ultimate storm is death! What then?

So, the question I have for you is . . .

How firm is your foundation?

The difference is not what you know. Both know the same thing.

The difference is what you do with what you know! Don't miss that point.