Different On Purpose: Storm-Proof Living Matthew 7:24-29

Passage

Matthew 7:24-29 Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Hearing Jesus Is Not Enough

Assertion

- Jesus begins: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine…" That's both builders. Both heard. Both sat under the same teaching. Both had access to truth. Exposure to truth is not the same as obedience to truth.

Possible Objection

- But isn't hearing the Word what matters most? I mean, I'm in church. I listen. I take notes. Isn't that what God wants?

- Ezekiel 33:31-32 And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear what you say but they will not do it; for with lustful talk in their mouths they act; their heart is set on their gain. And behold, you are to them like one who sings lustful songs with a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument, for they hear what you say, but they will not do it.

Application

- When we encounter a clear command of Jesus, act on it within 24 hours.
- Why It Matters: Because knowing what Jesus says without doing what Jesus says creates the illusion of spiritual maturity without the reality of spiritual transformation.

Obedience is the Foundation of a Stable Life

Assertion

- Jesus contrasts two builders: One on rock, another on sand. The only difference? One acts on Jesus' words. The other doesn't.

Possible Objection

- Isn't that too simplistic? Life is complicated. Are we really saying everything comes down to obedience?

- 1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Application

- Establish one non-negotiable daily practice where you intentionally submit an area of your life to Christ.
- Why It Matters: Because the decisions we make to obey Jesus today establish the spiritual foundation we will depend on tomorrow.

Storms Reveal What Foundations Conceal

Assertion
- Jesus says: “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew…” Same storm. Both houses.

Possible Objection
- If God is good, why do both the wise and foolish experience storms? Shouldn’t obedience protect us from hardship?

- 1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Application
- Regularly examine our spiritual foundation during calm seasons.
- Why It Matters: Because life's storms expose whether our faith is rooted in the unchanging truth of Jesus or merely in the temporary comforts of favorable circumstances.

<u>Collapse Is The Result Of Disobedience, Not the Storm</u>

Assertion
- Jesus says of the foolish builder: “It fell, and great was the fall of it.” The storm didn’t distinguish the houses. The foundation did.

Possible Objection
- That feels harsh. Are you saying if my life falls apart, it’s because I didn’t obey enough?

- Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Application
- Refuse to tolerate “small” areas of disobedience; deal with them decisively.
- Why It Matters: Because ignoring Jesus' instructions may seem harmless when life is comfortable, but eventually, a life built on anything other than His truth will prove unable to stand.

<u>Jesus is Calling for a Different Kind of Life</u>

Assertion
- At the end, the crowd responds: “He was teaching them as one who had authority…”

Possible Objection
- Why should I take Jesus’ words this seriously? Isn’t this just one moral voice among many?

- Ephesians 4:22-24 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Application
- Pre-decide that our trust and obedience will not fluctuate based on circumstances.
- Why It Matters: Jesus didn't come simply to make our existing lives more comfortable; He came with the authority to transform how we live, what we value, and whom we follow.