



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 12: Built on the Rock

Matthew 7:24–25 *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. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus ends the greatest sermon ever preached with construction advice. Two builders, two houses that may have looked identical from the street, the only difference was what they were sitting on. That difference is exactly the one we have been tracing all through this segment: one group not only heard Christ's words but did them, while the other group were hearers only.

The wise builder is the one who “hears these words of mine and does them.” The house itself isn't the point; the foundation is. And here is the sobering truth — you cannot tell the two houses apart on a clear day. In fair weather, the hearer and the doer look the same. Both attend church, both carry Bibles, both can discuss the sermon over lunch. The difference stays hidden until the storm comes. Then the rain and flood and wind expose the true foundation. Faithful obedience is the foundation that holds when life gives way and like it or not everyone's life eventually meets a storm. Faith is conviction that even when the wind blows, knowing Jesus and thinking and living in alignment with His Word, is what will keep my life stable and secure. This is the rock my life sits on and where stability comes from; not my own ability to bail water when the flood waters rise.

This is the point John MacArthur pressed throughout his ministry: there is no such thing as a faith that genuinely hears Christ and then refuses to do what He says. A profession of faith that never produces obedience was never a saving faith at all. Hearing without doing isn't a lesser form of discipleship; Jesus says it's a house with no foundation.

For our theme, this is where the fear of the Lord proves its worth. Anyone can build a respectable-looking life of religious activity on the sand of good intentions. But a life of genuine holiness — one that stands when temptation, suffering, and testing beat against it — is built on the bedrock of reverent obedience, one buried, unglamorous choice at a time. Nobody applauds a foundation. It's poured out of sight, deep in the ground, long before the storm. But it is the only reason the house is still standing when the winds have done their worst.

So ask yourself the builder's question today, not "Does my life look Christian?" but "What is it built on?" A life founded on hearing-and-doing will stand. A life founded on hearing alone, however impressive it looks in the sunshine, is only waiting for rain.

TAKE AWAY

In fair weather, the hearer and the doer look identical. The storm tells the truth. Build today on conviction, not just convenience — that's the only foundation that holds.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you build your life on obedience to His Word, so it stands firm when the storms come.