

Rev. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Matthew 7:24-29 | Two Foundations
June 4, 2023

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Matthew 7.
- Bibles in the back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

We have spent the last ten months studying the most famous sermon preached by the most famous preacher ever.

The Sermon on the Mount by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

It's only three chapters in Matthew's Gospel—Chapters 5, 6, and 7.

As Jesus concludes His Sermon, He gives three specific illustrations.

He said if you want to enter Heaven, you have to enter through the narrow gate—

Because the wide gate leads to a very real place called hell.

Once you enter the narrow gate, Jesus cautioned us to be on the lookout for false teachers.

False teachers not only bear bad fruit—but preach a false message that will lead you down the wide road—which, of course, leads to a very real place called hell.

Jesus then taught us about two different types of people.

The first type of person not only listens to Jesus' sermon but does it—lives it out.

The second person fools himself by listening to the Sermon but not doing anything with it.

Applies

And here's the thing—^{SCARY} he thought he was saved.

He thought he was a Christian.

Because went to church. He served, attended Bible Studies, and tithed—and yet when he met Jesus face to face after his death... Jesus said,

+ **Matthew 7:23**— *'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'*,

In other words, 'You have to leave. You don't belong here.' ^{in Heaven.}

And then we learned that this man would be escorted out of the presence of Jesus to a very real place called hell.

That's why verse 23 is the most chilling and terrifying verse in Scripture.

Does it surprise you how often Jesus refers to hell at the end of His Sermon on the Mount?

He's talked about it three times so far.

And He talks about it one more time today.

Why does Jesus continually refer to hell?

+ **LW KEYPOINT 1:**
A verbal proclamation of "Jesus as Lord" does not always indicate repentance.

+ **LW KEYPOINT 2:**
The Father's will for your life is obedience.

+ **LW KEYPOINT 3:**
Salvation and obedience are inseparable.

Last week's sermon was hard to listen to— and even harder to preach.

But I pray that's why you're here this morning—not to listen to a preacher give his opinions on politics or other temporary problems.

But instead, I pray that you're here to not only listen to the truth explained in each verse—but also apply that truth to your lives today.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, Jesus provides one last illustration as He draws His sermon to a final conclusion.

So far, he's painted the picture of:

1. Two different types of gates—one narrow and one wide.
 2. Two different types of teachers—one true and one false.
 3. Two different types of fruit—one good and one bad.
 4. Two different types of people—one real and one fake
- And now we have two different types of houses.

One has a solid foundation, and the other a weak foundation.

We are not to miss Jesus' closing illustration.

The old adage, 'to save the best for last,' fits well.

Because when we listen to the Sermon on the Mount, we do not simply hear Jesus' *words*—We hear *Jesus* Himself.

He is grace and Truth. He is truth and grace.

And his closing example illustrates both perfectly.

How does it impact you? In every way possible.

Let's find out together!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:21—"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:22—"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?'

Matthew 7:23—"Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**'

Matthew 7:24—"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:25— The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

Matthew 7:26— But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Matthew 7:27— The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."

Matthew 7:28— When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

Matthew 7:29— because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

These are the very words from the authoritative, inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of Almighty God.

PRAY:

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

(Psalm 18:2)

EXEGESIS:

Matthew 7:21—"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:22—"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?'

Matthew 7:23—"Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**'

Matthew 7:24—"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Jesus says, "Therefore."

So everything that Jesus taught about entering Heaven from the narrow gate on—to this moment, brings about His following illustration.

Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount with a parable.

A parable is a moral story that displays a spiritual truth.

Matthew 7:24—“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine...
Hears (*akouō* in Greek) means listen, understand, and pay attention to.

Jesus now emphasizes listening through divine revelation.

Hearing is how people receive insight and knowledge.

Insight and knowledge are the precursors to obedience.

Jesus talks a lot about hearing/listening in the Gospels...

Luke 18:19 NLT— Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they couldn't get to him because of the crowd.

Luke 18:20 NLT— Someone told Jesus, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to see you.”

Luke 18:21 NLT— Jesus replied, “My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God's word and obey it.”

After Jesus started preaching in parables...He told His disciples.

Matthew 13:16 NLT—“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

Matthew 13:17 NLT— I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it.

Now look how specific Jesus is...

Matthew 7:24—“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

These are not just words—they are words from God.

He says, these words of mine.

'My words' equals the Sermon on the Mount.

For the Disciples, they had the privilege of hearing God's voice.

KEYPOINT 1:

For disciples today, we hear God's voice, primarily through the Bible.

when we read the word of God by the Spirit of God, we hear God's voice
And if hearing wasn't cool enough—we get to experience God by doing what He says.

Matthew 7:24—"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them...

Acts on them—we can't just listen—we have to apply these things to our life.

We learned last week that if we boiled all of Scripture down to one word, that word would be—obedience.

One of the great dangers for us as the Church is to think that hearing God's Word each week is the same as doing His will.

James 1:22 NLT— But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:23 NLT— For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

James 1:24 NLT— You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

James 1:25 NLT— But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

KEYPOINT 2:

True Believers live the Gospel.

We find out an immediate benefit to doing exactly that.

Matthew 7:24—...everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

KEYPOINT 3:

Hearing + Action = Wisdom

Matthew 7:24—... will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Notice the article—the rock.

Your translation will say, 'the rock, on rock, or solid rock.'

No translation says 'a rock.'

What is "the rock"? (It's not Dwayne Johnson)

In the Psalms, we see the Lord use this illustration.

Psalm 31:3 NLT— You are my rock and my fortress.

Psalm 78:35 NLT—Then they remembered that God was their rock, that God Most High was their redeemer.

And we see Jesus carry this theme of Him being our rock and redeemer—

But, He also delegates His authority to others later in Matthew 16.

Matthew 16:13—When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

The “Son of Man” is Jesus’ favorite title for Himself.

Matthew 16:14— They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Matthew 16:15— “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?”

Matthew 16:16— Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:17— Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16:18— And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

When the apostle John sees the new Heavens and Earth in Revelation 21—

Specifically, when he sees the New Jerusalem, He is so excited that he can’t describe how glorious this city truly is.

The city—the New Jerusalem—your new home—if you are born again—is so extraordinary, doesn’t have one foundation, look at this...

Revelation 21:14—The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.

Why is it important that our new home has twelve foundations?

Back to the Gospel text.

—Verse 25 tells us.

+ **Matthew 7:25**— The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

This “rock” (*petra*) is the same **word** picture that Jesus gave Peter.

The rock is the foundation of God's Word, His divine revelation—specifically, The Sermon on The Mount.

+ **Matthew 7:25**— The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and ~~pounded that house.~~

Now, what does Jesus mean by the rain, rivers, and winds?

Let's take a closer look:

+ **Matthew 7:25**— The rain fell,

Rain could point to trials and difficulties in your life.

It could be a severe illness in your life—whether it's you or someone you love.

It could be a substantial loss—whether it's the death of a loved one or financial.

It could be an ongoing disappointment—you're concerned about your spouse, kids, or grandkids.

Battle w/ depression, Addiction, spiritual stronghold.

And you pray and pray and pray—and yet the rain continues to fall.

+ **Matthew 7:25**— The rain fell, the rivers rose,

If the rain doesn't let up eventually, what happens?

Flooding begins.

It's a picture of you being in over your head.

You don't know what to do.

You've never been in this position before.

You thought you could handle it, but you can't.

You can do absolutely nothing—nor can anyone else help you in this situation.

The rivers rising could mean that this trial is substantial.

God has not answered your prayer.

Maybe there is a thorn in your flesh that God won't take away.

Maybe the medical doctors are stumped...

Your spouse has left...

Your kids and grandkids will not return your calls...

Your life savings for retirement is gone...

This is no small trial—lasting months or even years.

The rivers rising is a trial that tests you to your very limits.

The emotional, physical, and spiritual weight overwhelms you as you gasp for air.

You start to doubt your faith.

Will you choose to cling to Jesus? Or is the pain so high that you lose patience and walk away?



Matthew 7:25— *The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew...*

The wind could be the world's options to your problem.

Everybody starts telling you what to do—as if they know how to solve your problem.

The wind could also be demonic attacks.

Demons will sling doubt.

They will bombard you with foul, evil, and blasphemous thoughts about your Lord and Savior.

If your Jesus is so good, why is He not listening to your prayers?

If your Jesus is so loving, why are you suffering?

You start to doubt your faith as you look at other family members or friends, who are as worldly as they come, yet they don't have your problems.



Matthew 7:25— *The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house.*

This trial pounds your faith.

Have you ever been through an earthquake?

How about a hurricane? *Tornado*

That's the picture, but the terror of the earthquake—

The force of the hurricane doesn't let up.

Each day it seems to get worse.

It's lasted so long, and there seems to be no hope in sight.

And then, Jesus says...



Matthew 7:25— Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

Why didn't the house collapse?

Because of the foundation.

And that foundation is Christ crucified.

You didn't lose faith.

As hard as it was—with all the doubts, fear, and terror in the middle of the storm.

Your faith didn't collapse. Why?

Because you willfully and consciously chose to believe God and believe in God's Word, regardless of your situation.

In fact, you didn't know that God has been preparing you for this very moment.

He's been preparing you all of your life for this test.

He was with you as you read His Word quietly to yourself during all those devotional times.

He was with you as you sat in the pews on Sunday mornings with your church family.

He was with you when you served, even though you didn't want to or feel like it.

He was with you when you tithed but knew you couldn't afford it.

He was with you....

You made it through the storm.

Whether God's grace gave you a reprieve or maybe you'll soon be home with Him in glory.

God was and is with you.

Your faith did not falter. *-It was a bit ugly at times
You're not perfect - But...*
You passed the test!

You finished the race! *Well done, good & faithful servant!*

+ **Matthew 7:26**— *But* everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Here we meet the second man.

Let's begin by looking at the similarities between the wise man and foolish man.

The first likeness is that they both have the same desire.

They both want to build a house for their families.

It's a house they want to enjoy.

Not only did these men want to build a nice home for their families, but these guys were neighbors.

They have bought lots right next to one another in the newest, nicest master-planned community in town!

In fact, these two guys bought the same floor model.

It's a 2,000-square-foot home with a two-car garage.

They both have a fantastic view of the Sedona Red Rocks.

^{Visible}
The only difference is the front elevation.

One chose stucco, the other with river rock—~~that's the only difference—~~
Now there is another difference - one that is not seen.
Except for the foundation.

The foolish man skimped on the foundation.
Why does he need a foundation on the rock for?
~~What's he need a steady foundation for?~~

After all, no one can really see the foundation.

And, he lives in Arizona—He lives in the desert—it's always sunny in Arizona.

What could possibly go wrong?

I mean, after all...God loves him!

He can save that money to buy himself a Corvette!

The second similarity is that they have both heard the Gospel.

They both have heard the Three Circles from someone here at RBC!

Now, they both proceed to build their house (aka their lives) after they've heard the Gospel.

+ **Matthew 7:26**— *But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man...*

Foolish man—*mōrós*.

We get our English word, moron, from it.

It doesn't matter how intelligent this man is—he could have an IQ that's off the charts, be well-known as an expert in his field—

But when it comes to spiritual matters— Jesus says mentally dull—he's a fool.

What are the characteristics of the foolish man?

Foolish people are always in a hurry.

They want to do everything at once.

They have no time to wait and become easily irritable when ^{someone} you're in their way.

+ **Isaiah 28:16 NLT**— *Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken."*

In other words,

Whoever believes in the Gospel doesn't need to make quick, irrational decisions.

There is no need to act in haste.

The wise man is not influenced by worldly methods of excitement and hurry.

He knows Christ as His foundation.

And he knows that God's ways are not his ways.

Therefore the wise man learns patience.

KEYPOINT 4:

The wise man may not understand God during the storm, but trusts God nonetheless.

But the foolish man is impatient.

He's always interested in shortcuts and quick results.

He's the kind of guy that pulls a frozen dinner out of the freezer, looks at the directions, and says, "Two Minutes!?"

He expects it to be fully cooked by pulling it out of the freezer.

And because of his worldview and immaturity—the foolish man is unteachable.

He will not listen to instructions.

He's got it all figured out.

Just as he has taken shortcuts in building the foundation of his house—

How much more when it comes to faith?

In a spiritual sense, he is not interested in learning from Church history.

He's not interested in what the Bible has to say about His eternal destiny.

He has not interest in hearing about the holiness of God ^{and} his depravity. *US. own*

He'll cross the at bridge when gets there.

Now we see the consequences...

+ **Matthew 7:27**— *The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."*

The storms of life came across this man as well.

Evidently, It's not always sunny in Arizona.

Great Crash—mégas in Greek.

Mega—It was a loud crash.

It was big, wide, and powerful.

But this crash was also surprising.

His friends, neighbors, family, and church—

- *Wow, we didn't that coming!*
- *How could he leave his family for his secretary? Why on Earth was he skimming money?*
- *Wasn't he a deacon at RBC?*

+ **KEYPOINT 5:**
Storms reveal the foundation of your faith.

If you have chosen to confess with your mouth that 'Jesus is Lord' and to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead...

If you have chosen the narrow gate and walk the narrow road.

If you have chosen to watch out for false teachers and bear good fruit.

If you have chosen to build your life on the foundation of God's Word...know this
— You will be tested.

KEYPOINT 6:

If your foundation is wrong, everything is wrong.

How do we know that to be true?

JESUS SAID...

Matthew 21:42—The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

The apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian Church—

1 Corinthians 3:10 NLT— Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful.

1 Corinthians 3:11 NLT— For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12 NLT— Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.

1 Corinthians 3:13 NLT— But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

1 Corinthians 3:14 NLT— If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15 NLT— *But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss.*

What's Jesus' point with his foundation illustration?

Here it is—and it directly ties into last week when Jesus said, "I don't know you."

Jesus' point is that you find both builders in the Church.

They sit together, sing together, and serve together.

They sit and listen to the same Gospel.

However, one chooses to believe, and the other doesn't.

One man chose obedience and the other disobedience.

It is easy to fool the pastor, our friends, and even ourselves—but there is no fooling Jesus.

Here's why...

Matthew 7:27— *It collapsed with a great crash."*

The house crumbled—actually it didn't take much.

It didn't take much of the pounding rain or the rivers rising, or the wind blowing because the foundation was wrong.

Spiritually speaking, Jesus may be pointing to divine judgment ^{here} at this point.

Once again, Jesus points to a very real place called hell.

This is the fourth time he does that within His conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount.

There is no avoiding the conversation of eternal damnation.

Think About This...

Jesus ends His sermon—the most famous sermon in the world—on the subject of hell. *—the consequences of not believing → obeying.*

That is a fascinating way to end a sermon.

It certainly isn't one of those 'best life now' motivational deals, is it?

Let's not miss Jesus' point.

It is not enough to say you believe—we must live this sermon out.

Otherwise, we are also in danger of a *mega* great crash.

These repeated warnings at the end of Jesus' sermon emphasize one thing—

Matthew 7:21—*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.*

So Jesus officially concludes His Sermon.

Look what happens next.

Matthew 7:28—*When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,*

Astonished is *Ekplēssō* (ek-play-so) in Greek.

They were amazed.

The picture here is

It literally means 'to be struck out of oneself.'

However, in English, it is very difficult, perhaps impossible, to comprehend the exact flavor of *Ekplēssō*.

We can offer our own verbs— “were awed,” “amazed,” “filled with amazement,” “dumbfounded,” and “astonished.”

The picture here is that this was not a one-time event where everybody got excited and went home and forgot about it.

Jesus' words lasted.

~~the~~ the Sermon on the Mount

Jesus' words immediately spread through Israel and the surrounding nations.

Why? Because Jesus preached and taught in such a radically different way than the Scribes and Pharisees.

First, Jesus spoke the truth.

The Scribes and Pharisees were flawed humans preaching a works-based salvation.

Secondly, Jesus spoke of eternal matters—life, death, sin, and the Kingdom of God.

The Scribes and Pharisees, on the other hand, wasted their time on trivial matters like tithing spices. (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42).

Thirdly, there was a structure or roadmap to Jesus' preaching.

The Scribes and Pharisees rambled on and on with no end in sight.

Forth, Jesus spoke with love and compassion.

The Scribes were harsh and demanding. (Matt 23:4, 13–15; Mark 12:40).

Lastly, and most importantly—Jesus spoke with authority.

Matthew 7:29— *because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.*

Authority is *exousia* (ex-you-see-ah) in Greek.

It has to do with **divine** power.

The scribes quoted others to lend **authority** to their teachings.

I do the same thing with my notes.

If you go to the very back, you'll see a detailed bibliography.

And I do that so you guys can see where I'm getting my information as I teach and preach.

But Jesus didn't quote other Scribes or use a bibliography, did He?

No, Jesus is God.

KEYPOINT 7:

Jesus is the lawmaker, not a commentator.

Jesus speaks on his own authority, not the authority of others.

Jesus quoted only God's Word and expanded on God's Word.

Every word that Jesus spoke is Scripture.

Jesus spoke the truth with grace.

Truth = GRACE
That astounded the crowd.

They left amazed.

Now, that's not necessarily a good thing.

Here's the problem with being amazed...

They didn't need to be amazed— they needed to be saved!

Jesus didn't preach the Sermon on the Mount to amaze or impress them.

Jesus is not seeking their approval—He's not giving a Ted Talk—or a motivational speech.

He preached not to give them information but instead to provide a way of salvation.

Our Gospel writer,
Matthew doesn't tell us if anyone believed.

Some probably did.

But most didn't.

We know there were only 120 people when the Apostles replaced Judas with Matthias.

It was only after Pentecost that the church exploded.

So, let that be the end of our study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
PREACH:

If someone asks, Why should I listen to the Sermon on the Mount?

Why should I put it into practice?

Why should I obey it?

There's only one reason—because of the Person who preached it.

Jesus not only spoke the truth—He is Truth.

Jesus not only lived the Gospel—He is the Gospel.

Jesus not only preached a new standard—He is the Standard.

And because no one could ever come close to fulfilling this Sermon—Jesus fulfilled it for us.

He was 100% obedient - perfect.

That's why you should believe and obey.

obeys completely

PRAYER

/ worship

BENEDICTION

Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

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