



Foundational Matters

Matthew 7:24-27

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

For the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told a story to bring His hearers to a decision. This story, the Parable of the Two Builders, is about the things in life that really matter.

These two builders, one wise and one foolish, each built houses. Both houses are in the same location, use similar materials, and have similar amenities. Both houses appear to be the same. Both endure a catastrophic storm. But there is one glaring difference – the foundation on which they are built! And that difference is crucial and pivotal.

As Jesus ends this very famous sermon, He tells this story to confront every person with a choice. Essentially, He is asking them and us this question: **How do you want to live?** In these verses, Jesus offers every one of us these **two alternatives**:

I. You can live WISELY

(verses 24-25)

1. Wisdom applies God's Word *"puts them into practice"*
A wise person has a habitual lifestyle of hearing and obeying God's Word
* Psalm 119:89; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25
2. Wisdom withstands life's storms *"rain...streams...winds blew and beat"*
* Proverbs 24:10; 18:10; Psalm 62:2&7
3. Wisdom builds on permanence *"its foundation on the rock"*
* Proverbs 24:3; 10:25; 1 Corinthians 3:10-13; Ephesians 2:2-22

II. You can live FOOLISHLY

(verses 26-27)

1. Folly lives man's values *"does not put them into practice"*
* James 2:20; 4:17; Proverbs 21:30; Romans 1:21; Colossians 2:8
2. Folly builds on transience *"built his house on sand"*
* Proverbs 23:5; 28:26; Ezekiel 13:11-14; Hebrew 9:27
3. Folly ends in disaster *"fell with a great crash"*
* Proverbs 1:27-28; 10:25

Your response:

1. Are you reading the Bible daily? Do you study it for information or for application? What lessons for life did you learn from God's Word this past week? Are you striving to obey what God is telling you in your Bible reading? Are you growing in your conformity to the Word of God?
2. What items in life are solid, secure and lasting? What things in life are **"rock"** foundations and last? How do these things help you in the trials and disasters of your life?
3. Can you identify the areas of your life that are transient and built on **"sand?"** A good rule of thumb is, what will be important to you in 100 years. Will these things help you in the storms of life and the issues of eternity? Why or why not?
4. Bow your head in a prayer of seeking before God. Ask God what are the foundations of your life? What are the things you value, the things you spend your time on, and the things that are important to you? Ask God to re-align your priorities and values to His.
5. Take a sheet of paper and a pen. Plan a strategy as to how you can eliminate **"sand"** and build your life on **"rock."** Set some goals and a timeline on implementing God's new strategy for your life.

Resources:

The Daily Study Bible: Matthew by William Barclay

Commentary on Matthew by William Hendrickson

The Interpretation of St. Matthew's Gospel by R. C. H. Lenski

Stories With Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus by Klyne Snodgrass

The Waiting Father: Sermons on the Parables of Jesus by Helmut Thielicke