

# The Foolish and the Wise Builders

## Matthew 7:24-29

### Authenticity

#### (Sermon on the Mount, Part 3)

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

<sup>26</sup>“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

<sup>28</sup> And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

PRAY

**IT ALL STARTED WITH Extreme Home Make over! 11yrs ago–**

A)Ty Pennington and the gang making a families dream come true! – Home facelift – Remodel

B))If you ever watched that show – you loved the part where – Everyone would be gathered – the Family Standing behind the Bus

C)Ty Pennington would yell – MOVE THAT BUS!

**C)We would see the Look on the families faces/ WOW! - LOOKING AT A BRAND NEW HOME!**

**Since then the Home improvement Channel was created and now there are NEW Home improvement shows – springing up every month!**

A)How many of you ladies like watching those shows! – How many of you men hate them?

B)Zach and Kara - Our wives are coming up with all these new ideas – Right

C)If you are like me – Problem is – You don't know how to do MOST OF THAT STUFF!

**Today as we wrap up the Sermon on the Mount – Jesus finishes with what has commonly been called the Parable of the Builders!**

A)HE DESCRIBES two men who were both – building homes -

B)Ever dreamed about building a house? If you could **win the Lottery – someone gave you a ticket**

C)Where would you build? Rural or Coastal?  
1)What Style? Rustic or Modern? Ranch or Spanish or Mediterranean?

C)Most of us will never build our Dream home – but all of us are Building our lives!

**1)Salvation Army Couple: Under Construction**  
**Here Jesus tells the story of 2 men who are each building a house / the houses can represent their lives**

A)Houses speak of **REST / COMFORT / AND SECURITY !**

B)Three things - People are searching for those things today -Longing for them

1)Rest - Comfort - Security!

C)Profound Lessons

**Lesson #1 All of us are Building something!**

A)You are in the construction business! – You are building a legacy of some sort.

B)All of us in this room are going to be remembered for something - by someone!

C)What are they going to write on your tomb stone?

1)What are they going to talk about at your funeral.

D)Sounds Morbid? – Hey most of us in this room including myself are closer to our future than we are OUR PAST!

**#1 All of us are Building something!**

**Consider - Similarities in the Builders**

A) They both had the same desire. They both desired to build a house.

**B)SAME DESIGN Jesus makes no distinction between the two designs.**

1) We can safely say that the men WANTED the same kind of house.

C) House where – REST / COMFORTABLE / SAFE / SECURE

**SAME LOCATION: SMART GUYS beach Front living**

A) They are subject to the same conditions – Potential Floods

B) **They had both FINISHED their projects.**

1) SUPERFICIALLY the men and their houses look very much the same.

C) BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

**What is interesting is the difference. Is not an obvious one - it is subtle - it's not surface – it's below surface!**

A) The difference is in the foundation - one house had a strong foundation the other house didn't.

B) It is important to note this because the difference between the **Strong Christian and the weak Christian IS NOT** always OBVIOUS.

C) It is below the surface that counts!

1) And what is below the surface is that which will stand the test of time! - Stand in the storm.

**Storms reveal the heart – Cup analogy**

A) The Bump or storm didn't produce what was in the cup – only revealed

B) Same with trials – Reveal the heart – Reveal the foundation – What a life is built on!

C) Lotus Riverside Complex – Shanghai – **The top of the Structure was good – Fell over and didn't break-**

1) The problem was below the surface – the problem was with the Foundation.

**#2 ALL BUILDERS HAVE A CHOICE OF FOUNDATIONS!**

A) Now the difference in the two builders had to do with how they approached their building!

B) Matthew, tells us in his gospel account that the 1<sup>st</sup> builder was referred to as "wise" but the 2<sup>nd</sup> builder was "foolish".

C) And LUKE gives us an IMPORTANT INSIGHT as to WHY **one builder was WISE and the other FOOLISH:**

1) We are told that the "wise man the 1<sup>st</sup> builder DUG DEEP and laid the foundation on ROCK." Luke 6:48

D) But the "foolish" builder did not dig at all he just laid his foundation on the dirt or the sand!

**E) In other words He DID NOT take the TIME or the TROUBLE to lay a foundation –**

1) He Just built right on the sand! – Get this up as quick as we can!

**THE FOOLISH builder was SHORT SIGHTED**

A) NEVER stops to consider the possibilities or consequences of building his house on sand.

B) He NEVER stops to think or ask himself:

"What will happen when the storms come and the flooding happens? – WAVES ARE CRASHING?"

C) In V.26 Jesus identifies the foolish builder in this way: **He is the man, the woman who hears the word of God – but doesn't put it into practice**

1) He hears – might agree – **nice sermon Pastor** - but never applies it to his life!

D) James exhorts: **Be doers of the word and not just hearers only!**

**The Problem in much of the Church today is not Biblical illiteracy**

A) It is Biblical application – People not putting God's word into practice

B) Their lives, their marriages, their families

1) They do it their way - NOT GIVING ANY THOUGHT to the **long term consequences** of building their lives on the sand.

**THAT IS THE FOOLISH BUILDER But the "wise BUILDER" is COMPLETELY DIFFERENT**

A) He says: "I don't know anything about how to build a house."

B) "I'm going to ask someone who knows about building houses."

1) He says *I want PLANS & BLUE PRINTS from someone who knows how to build a house that will last!*

C) SPIRITUALLY, the "wise man" is the one who will go to THE AUTHORITY on what life is all about.

1) God is the AUTHOR of life. / He is the AUTHORITY on what life is all about.

D) He not only READS the blueprints... He FOLLOWS them

JESUS says the Wise Builder is the one who Hears the word and does it

A) He is the one who hears the word and puts it into practice!

B) He studies it and sees how he can apply it into his life

1) Response times: Pray it in – think it through! – Don't just run out of here and forget –

C) Time to examine our lives!

So why is the foundation so Important?

#3 ALL FOUNDATIONS WILL BE TRIED!

A) We have seen some big storms this year in the – Midwest – Huge Tornadoes that – devastated whole towns

B) People always comment – California – Earthquakes – Don't want to live in California – Earthquakes –

1) Lived here 46yrs of my life – Never experienced any damage by an earthquake –  
2) Only 2 I can remember that were really bad.

C) Seems like every year – More Places being rocked by Tornadoes and Hurricanes

1) Scott and Amanda – Honeymoon in Cabo – last September – Resort – Severe damage by Hurricane

Naming Hurricanes: Hugo - Sounds Scary - Katrina – Latin Fire – Ike & Tina Turner (Bad dude)

A) Other names for Hurricanes – Larry - {Just doesn't sound bad – George - Dude on Seinfeld - Hurricane Grace -

B) Storms are a part of Life – Note Jesus doesn't say V. 25 The rain descended – NOT IF – IT IS WHEN

C) You are either IN A STORM TODAY – or just coming out of a storm

1) Or you are heading into one – that you don't know about yet.

Life's storms come in all shapes and sizes

A) Relational storms – fall out with a friend

B) Family storms – Tension in a marriage – tension with kids

C) Vocational storms – you lose a Job – {Hate your Job – Crazy boss

D) Storms involving health

1) The ultimate storm – Death!

The question remains how are you going to fair when the storm hits?

A) What is going to be revealed when the storm hits – Your heart is going to be revealed!

B) Your Foundation is going to be revealed!

C) What your life is built upon is going to be revealed

Why is the foundation so Important?

#4 There is only one Foundation that stands!

A) The Life that is built upon Jesus Christ – His word – His will – His way –

B) That is the only foundation that stands

C) Where is your identity: Who you are in Jesus! – Living for Him – YOU WILL STAND!

1) If your identity is anything else – Fall apart!

A) If your identity is in your profession:

That is what you live for – You are such and such – when that gets taken away – You're a mess

B) If your identity is in your Marriage – You live for being the wife or the Husband of .....

1) That breaks down – you are mess!

C) If your Identity is in some MINISTRY!

1) IF that is taken away: You are lost!

**But if your identity is in Jesus – Who you are in Him – His word – It makes all the difference in the World.**

A) Storm hits – something is wrecked – Ok – My identity is in Jesus – He has a plan – I know I can trust Him.

B) Notice v. 24, 26 and V.29 again – Jesus makes reference to **THESE SAYINGS OF MINE!**

**Jesus says whoever hears these sayings of Mine**

A) There is a general application to these sayings – All the teachings of the Bible.

B) But there is also a Specific application: The Sayings of the Sermon on the Mount –

1) Now we don't have time to go through every message – Began this January – Message #21 in the Sermon on the Mount series

C) But let's consider for a moment – what we might call the Big Ideas of the Sermon on the Mount? –

### **4 BIG IDEAS**

**#1 Life is meant to be lived dependent on God – Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12**

A) First beatitude: **Poor in Spirit** – Realizing your utter dependency upon God for everything – Salvation – Spiritual Bankrupt –

B) Progresses into every other area of life –

1) We need God – Need His strength – His power – His guidance – His Spirit to live the Christian life

C) That is the over arching theme of the whole – **SERMON.**

**#2 Life is meant to make an impact – Salt and Light Matthew 5:13-16**

A) We don't exist for ourselves – we exist for God – His mission

B) Salt is meant to be tasted – light is meant to be seen – Our lives are meant to infiltrate culture not isolate ourselves

**#3 God is focused more on the condition of the heart than outward works. – Shocking Statements and Authenticity Matthew 5:17- 6:18**

A) Religious leaders focused on outward righteousness – looking the part – doing the right things – going through the motions

B) Completely ignored their hearts that were far from the Lord

C) Jesus taught us here over and over again – **THE RIGHT HEART** – results in the **RIGHT ACTIONS**

**#4 Love is the Proof** – Treat others the way you want to be treated – Authentic – Matthew 6:19- Ch. 7

A) The Greatest display of your faith is going to be seen in the way that you treat others!

**LISTEN: YOU WANT TO HAVE A LIFE STAND THE TEST OF TIME, TRIAL AND TEMPEST?**

A) **YOU MUST** Have as your Foundation: **Life Dependent on Jesus – EVERYTHING**

B) A **LIFE** where you realize – You exist for an eternal purpose – God's mission. **SALT /LIGHT**

1) Something ends – it only means –

**NEW BEGINNING – NEW SEASON AND PLACE TO SHINE AND MAKE AN IMPACT.**

C) A **LIFE** – Keep a close monitoring of the condition of your heart

1) **Making sure A RIGHT HEART** – is fueling and motivating your desires

C) A Life that is marked by Love – Love For God – that is seen in Love for others

D) When Storms of life come – you will be fine!

1) Doesn't mean not hard – not a trial but the trial is part of the test –

Part of the construction to make you more like Jesus!