

(Sermon Notes)

Jesus is Our Firm Foundation!

Matthew 7:24-29

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. 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. 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. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.”

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

Introduction: A major landslide occurred 4 miles east of Oso, Washington, United States, on March 22, 2014, at 10:37 a.m. 43 people lost their lives. Warnings for decades that this was an area prone to slides.

1. Go to the Next Level! Hearing the Teachings of Jesus is Not Enough.

Hearing is Not Enough! | Matthew 7:24 (ESV)

...everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them...

It is not enough to hear the teaching of Jesus or be exposed to them! That will make no difference in your life!

It is not even enough to respect, admire, or appreciate Jesus’ teaching.

Memorizing, teaching, and promoting the message of Jesus also are not the ultimate step. (Judas)

Jesus compels us to put his words into practice from a place of faith that bring life-change.

2. Choose Well the Foundation of Your Life!

Which Foundation? | Matthew 7:24, 26 (ESV)

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.

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.

Both people in the parable built houses!

We will each build our lives on some foundation or other!

What foundations do people build their lives on?

- Careers -Family -Interests -Financial Security
- Physical Activity -Travel and Experiences -Politics
- A Noble Cause -Spiritual Enlightenment -Pursuit of Pleasure

Some foundations we might choose seem right but aren’t.

- Church Activity -Theological Contemplation
- Helping Others -Ministry -Serving
- Belonging to A Particular Church

Jesus urges us to build our lives on the Foundation of His Teachings!

- This is inseparable from his message that Jesus is the Savior of the World who died for our sins and when we put our faith in him, we are forgiven our sins and brought into the family of God.

3. The Storms will Rage Against Each of Us!

Terrible Storms Will Come! | Matthew 7:27 (ESV)

The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.

Terrible storms fell upon both people! Every one of us will experience the destructive storms of life!

-flooding of MS river, houses on stilts, kids coming to school in boats
-winds and tornadoes

Additionally, you may also interpret the storm to include the final judgement of God.

The Final Storm | Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

“it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment”

4. Only One Foundation Stands!

Jesus is the firm foundation for this Life and the Rock of Hope for our eternal life!

Jesus is Our Rock! | Matthew 7:25 (ESV)

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.

Jesus is Our Rock! | Psalm 18:1-2 (ESV)

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Jesus is Our Rock! | Deuteronomy 32:3-4 (ESV)

For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;

ascribe greatness to our God!

“The Rock, his work is perfect,

for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,

just and upright is he.

-Notice the survival of the houses does not depend on the skill or effort of the builder. The point is not who built a better house. This is in line with the grace of God through faith in Jesus. We will not all build perfect houses. But our foundation can be perfect.

-Why do all other foundations fail?

-Firm foundation for this life

-Rock of hope for eternal life

5. Likewise, there is Only One Foundation for the Church!

The same is true for the foundation of the church.

The Foundational Truth of the Church! | Matthew 16:13-18 (ESV)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

6. Submit to the Unparalleled Authority of Jesus!

Jesus' Unparalleled Authority! | Matthew 7:28-29 (ESV)

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, **29** because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

They recognized the authority of Jesus! Will you submit to the authority of Jesus today?

Why are we sometimes drawn to submitting to a human authority in the place of

Jesus?

Next Steps:

1. Examine your life closely to understand the foundation upon which you are building. Repent where needed.
2. Continually pursue the Truth of Jesus and live it out through Faith and Practice.
3. Invite others into your life for mutual support along the way.
4. Seek to put all of your inner and outer life into submission to Jesus.
5. Pray for our church and join with us in the building on the foundation of Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. What teaching from the Sermon on the Mount has made the biggest impact on your life?
2. Why is it not enough to hear the teachings of Jesus? What would be lacking?
3. Do the two men in Jesus' parable represent every one of us? Who would possibly be excluded? Why?
4. What other foundations do people try to build their lives on? Which other foundations are appealing to you?
5. What are some seemingly good foundations that still lack the strength of the
6. What types of "storms" shake our lives and threaten to destroy us?
7. Why does Jesus not promise that if we follow him, we will not face such difficulties?
8. Why does the survival of our "house" not depend on our own efforts or how well we build our "houses"?
9. How does this parable also speak about our assurance of eternal salvation?
10. Explain whether and why you find this parable helpful or troubling.
11. What does it mean to submit to the authority of Jesus over your life?
12. Why are we resistant to Jesus' authority?
13. How can we grow in our submission to Jesus?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will expose in our lives what foundation we are building on.
2. Pray that God humbles us to submit to the authority of Jesus over our lives.
3. Pray that God will help us stand firm on the foundation of Jesus as we face the “storms” of life.
4. Pray for us as God’s people to continually proclaim and teach the message of Jesus and that people will hear and come to faith in Jesus.

Sermon Description

As we come to the end of our study of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns us not to simply hear and admire his teachings, but to build our lives on the firm foundation of his teachings. We will each build our lives on some foundation. Will the foundation upon which your life is built withstand the coming storms of trial, difficulty, and judgement?

Additional Resources

Animated Children’s Song: “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5bBDRpzPM>

(Slides)

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→ **Choose Well the Foundation of Your Life!**

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→ **The Storms will Rage Against Each of Us!**

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→ **Only One Foundation Stands!**

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