



Exploring the Kingdom of God in Matthew: A House On the Rock!

Matthew 7:24-27

July 15, 2018

Mat 7:24 (KJV) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Our LORD's analogy of the building one's house on the Rock is filled with practical lessons for blessed and godly living.

- To build is to live
- The houses we build are our lives
- The rock upon which we build is the Word of Christ...the Scriptures...the Holy Bible.

Jesus commands His followers to be both hearers and doers of His sayings...of the whole counsel of the Word of God (Acts 20:27, Jam 1:22).

Mat 7:25 (KJV) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Jesus wants you to have a steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the LORD house (1 Cor 15:58)! He wants your life to be able to weather the storms, the ups and downs of changing seasons and harsh weather. He does not want your house crashing down!

Mat 7:26 (KJV) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

The word for foolish is *moros*! :) It means "dull or stupid, that is, heedless, (morally) a blockhead, an *absurd*: - a fool." -Strong's Dictionary

Our goal has been to build CRCC on the Rock. We've seen the storms and floods. Nevertheless, "our hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness. On Christ the solid rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand!"

Key Point: Your house is only as strong as what it is built upon!

Mat 7:27 (KJV) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Please understand that beyond day to day practicality, more is at stake in context. Christ has been describing true and false followers. True followers build on the Rock. False followers build on sand, and at the last day, great will be the fall of their lives.

BUILDING ON THE ROCK: SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Be **saved!** Pursuing the Master's mandates would benefit anyone, but one must repent and believe in the Master to be born into His family and have one's life on the Rock!
2. Remember there are three ways to view God's Word. Choose wisely:
 - The Scriptures are neither authoritative (divine authorship) nor binding (requires obedience)
 - The Scriptures are authoritative, but not binding
 - The Scriptures are both authoritative AND binding
3. Assuming you chose correctly (the third view), and see Scripture as **sufficient**, make the study of Scripture a daily and exciting discipline! No longer is Bible study a forlorn activity! This solid house-building mindset also enables a Kingdom **enthusiasm** about God's Word!
4. Prayerfully review every area of your life (your house) based on biblical precepts, principles, and patterns.
 - Spiritual disciplines
 - Relationships
 - Parenting
 - Work
 - Church, ministry, missions, and discipleship
 - Public and private morality and social issues
 - Stewardship (giving, saving, inheritance, etc)
5. Diligently **reform** and **restructure** your life (your house) based on Scripture! This is where you determine to be a "doer not a hearer only" (Jam 1:22)! This is where the house gets built on the rock of Christ's Word! This is also where we normally are slow to move!
6. Befriend those who are doing the same for encouragement to not lose heart in the building! Find those who'll stand with you in the building of a life that honors God with a sword on their hip and work tools in their hands (Nehemiah 4:15-18)!

MacDonald writes:

*If a person lives according to the principles of the Sermon on the Mount, the world calls him a fool; Jesus calls him a **wise man**. The world considers a wise man to be someone who lives by sight, who lives for the*

present, and who lives for self; Jesus calls such a person a fool. It is legitimate to use the wise and foolish builders to illustrate the gospel. The wise man puts his full confidence in the Rock, Christ Jesus, as Lord and Savior. The foolish man refuses to repent and rejects Jesus as his only hope of salvation. But the interpretation of the parable actually carries us beyond salvation to its practical outworking in the Christian life.

Let it be so, LORD Jesus!

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20

1. Consider praying through a “life inventory.” Are there any areas you are purposely attempting to build upon the rock of God’s Word?
2. Do you know anyone who could use the encouragement you received today? Would you reach out to them this week?