

Two Builders

Introduction

Matthew 7:24-29

1. As this passage begins with “therefore” it is certain these statements of the Lord are rooted in the preceding passage.
2. In fact, they are a fitting conclusion to the entire “Sermon on the Mount.”
3. If we do not put these sayings of Christ to practice (the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount), our spiritual house will fall in this life and come to utter ruin in the world to come.
 - A. Specifically, Matthew 7:24-29 is the conclusion and explanation of Matthew 7:21-23.
 - 1) In these two passages of Scripture we have contrasted “SAYING” and “DOING.”
 - a. Observe carefully in Matthew 7:22 that “many will say,” which indicates the matter under consideration was only a spoken religion.
Matthew 7:20
 - b. These involved in this mere “spoken religion” were rejected by Christ who said, “depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.”

- B. Although this point was very clearly set forth by the illustration of the fruit tree (Matthew 7:17-20), our Lord drives home the point by the most blood-chilling words known to man – “I never knew you.”**
- 1) Christ has never known (accepted) the false teacher, or they who say and do not.**
 - 2) One who does not submit to the Lord’s will in every point has contaminated fruit.**
- C. With these thoughts in mind, let us turn our attention to our Lord’s chief argument for having a firm foundation, which is seen in the parable of the two builders (Matthew 7:24-29).**

Everyone Is A Builder

- 1. This truth is represented by the wise man who built his house on a rock and the foolish man who built his house on the sand.**
 - A. The wise man chose a proper foundation (doing the will of God) and built an enduring house – the only profitable life.**
 - B. The foolish man labored to build a house upon sand (disobedient to God’s word) and his house and labor were lost.**
 - C. One may say, “I’m not going to build,” – but our Lord anticipates such, and they are also represented by the foolish man.**

- 2. To really appreciate this parable one needs to understand a little about the terrain of Palestine.**
 - A. Palestine is covered with hills and valleys.**
 - B. In late winter and early spring the heavy mountain rains come. This causes peaceful streams to become raging streams, and carries everything in its path away with it.**
 - C. This leaves a sandy deposit in the low lands.**
 - D. The wise man will not build in the sand, instead, he chooses to build in the higher country where there is solid rock.**

- 3. We are all going to build on a foundation in this life whether we realize it or not.**
 - A. We are going to build on a foundation which we will place our soul's destiny.**
 - B. The sure foundation of the Lord will stand and all others will crumble.**

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

1 Timothy 6:19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

The Wise Builder

1. This wise man built upon a foundation that was founded upon a rock – a firm foundation.
2. Notice what Jesus said was needed to be a wise man – “whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them.”
3. In order to build a strong foundation for a house, you must follow the directions found in the blueprints.
 - A. The blueprints to a foundation are engineered to hold the weight of the structure and to keep it stable.
 - B. If one leaves things out of the foundation it is sure to crumble.
4. For a Christian to build a firm foundation – he must read and follow the blueprints designed by Christ.
5. The key to building a good foundation, a firm foundation, is to do the following:
 - A. “HEAR”
Romans 10:17
2 Timothy 2:15
 - 1) No one can know how to build a firm foundation unless one hears and studies the blueprints.
 - 2) We automatically build a weak foundation when we do not know how to build a strong one.

B. “DOER”

- 1) **Jesus said**, “whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them.” (**Matthew 7:24**).

Matthew 7:21

- 2) **Faithful men of God have always been doers:**

- a. **Abel is a good representative of the Patriarchal Age**

Genesis 4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

- b. **King Josiah is a good representative of the Mosaic Age.**

2 Kings 22:2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

- c. **Paul is a good representative under the Christian Age.**

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- 3) **Obedience has always been a distinguishing mark of a faithful child of God.**

Build On A Rock

- 1. This rock on which we are to build our foundation is in the Old Testament referred to as Deity.**

Deuteronomy 32:4 **He is the Rock**, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, **A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation**; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

- 2. The New Testament pictures Christ as this rock on which we are to build.**

Matthew 16:13-18

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

- 3. Christ must be our foundation, and any other foundation can not stand.**

The Foolish Builder

1. **The foolish man has also heard the same truth and has equal intelligence to understand, but his foolishness is shown in that he does not secure that truth by putting it into practice.**

Luke 8:12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

- A. **Some hear but the devil takes the word away.**
- B. **To act on what one hears will keep the devil from our hearts.**

1 Corinthians 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2. **The foolish man looks for an easy way out.**
 - A. **The foolish man might say that it is easier to work with sand.**
 - 1) **Many do not want to make the needed sacrifice that is required to have a firm foundation.**

Amos 6:1 **Woe to you who are at ease in Zion,** And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes!

- B. **A firm foundation can only be had by our diligent following and close adherence to the blueprints.**

Conclusion

- 1. We are all going to build on a foundation – firm or weak.**
- 2. A firm foundation can only be had when we follow the instructions given by Jesus – the Chief Corner Stone – We must know and follow the instructions.**
- 3. What kind of foundation are you building on?**
- 4. Once again – let me emphasize – A firm foundation can only be had when we follow the instructions!**
- 5. Are you a wise or foolish builder?**
- 6. Read Poem (next page).**
 - A. This poem is not about a foolish builder, but rather a person who is a wise builder and one who wrecks that which has been built by a wise builder.**

A Builder Or a Wrecker

As I watched them tear a building down
A gang of men in a busy town
With a ho-heave-ho, and a lusty yell
They swung a beam and the side wall fell

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
And the men you'd hire if you wanted to build?"
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed,
Just common labor is all I need."

"I can easily wreck in a day or two,
What builders have taken years to do."
And I thought to myself, as I went my way
Which of these roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by rule and square?
Am I shaping my work to a well-made plan
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks to town
Content with the labor of tearing down?
"O Lord let my life and my labors be
That which will build for eternity!"

Invitation

Place

Date

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Richie Thetford, April 2020 (Based on lesson material from Tom Moore and other sources)