

A WISE MAN AND A FOOLISH MAN MATTHEW 7

Text: Matthew 7:24, 26

Matthew 7:24

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

Matthew 7:26

²⁶And 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:

Introduction:

Jesus is coming to the close of the sermon that He preached on the mountain. He had covered a number of things which included:

- The Beatitudes (Character described)
- Six Illustrations (Character applied)
- True Spiritual worship (Character expressed)

- Two alternatives (Character established)

It is this last point of our Savior's message that we will look this morning.

Notice He illustrates His point with a story or parable.

1. PICTURE

A. Two builders

(Matthew 7:24) "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:"

(Matthew 7:26) "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:"

1. They both saw the need of building a house.
2. They both resolved to obtain a house.
3. They were both skilled in building.
4. Both set out and finished their structures.

Looking only at the surface both of these men would be commended in their accomplishments. But we must be careful in commending people until they go through some testing.

B. Two houses

1. The biggest differences between the two probably was that one completed his structure more quickly than the other.
2. One built with far less trouble, effort, and cost.
3. The main difference between the two was out of sight.
 - a. One was built on a firm foundation.
 - b. One was built on a faulty foundation.
 - c. One was built on a solid foundation.
 - d. One was built on a sandy foundation.

Looking only at the surface of these houses one would be impressed in their appearance. But we must be careful in commending things until they go through some testing.

2. PROBLEM

(Ecclesiastes 2:23) "For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity."

- A. The rain descended (Pressure from above)
- B. The winds blew (Pressure from around)
- C. The floods came up (Pressure from below)

3. PRODUCT

- A. One stood the test

1. He believed in the Rock

Illustration: On Christ the solid Rock I stand

- a. Jesus tells us we can do nothing without Him.

(John 15:5) "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

2. He spared no trouble to get to the Rock.

a. He dug deep

- Those who are successful spiritually have a deep foundation

b. In building our life on the Foundation we must remove some things out of the way.

3. He built his house upon it after he found the rock.

a. He was not just interested in having a good foundation, but rather sought the rock to lay the foundation on.

b. There is a difference in finding the rock and building on the rock.

4. He wasn't displeased with the results.

- The floods came, and could not shake the house.

- Christianity is no failure
- A life built on Christ will be a life of stability.

B. One failed the test

1. He disregarded the Rock

a. He no doubt knew about the rock, but thought he could get along without it.

(Isaiah 5:21) "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

b. If we wish to end with Christ, we must begin with Him.

2. He commenced to building too soon.

a. He began building when he should have been digging.

Illustration:

Many try to build on other things (good works, church membership, baptism, golden rule, but all of these are sinking sand.

3. He built without a foundation.

(1 Corinthians 3:11) "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

(Isaiah 28:16) "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

4. His hope was suddenly cut off.

(Luke 6:49) "But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

a. He did not perish because he was lazy or indifference to his need of a shelter.

b. He did his very best, but it was his best was not good enough.

(Isaiah 64:6) "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

- Works may be many and beautiful, but if Jesus is not the foundation of all, "one thing thou lackest," and lack of this one thing renders uselessness and fruitless every other thing.

c. Great was his loss.

- It was too late to build another house when the flood came.

(Malachi 4:1) "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

(2 Thessalonians 1:8) "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

4. PRINCIPLES

A. It is a futile thing to only hear.

B. We all have needs.

1. Salvation

2. Stability

- Some haven't realized their need.
- Others have seen their need but have failed in seeing it met. (Some know they are lost, and headed for Hell but have yet to give their heart to Christ.)
- Others have seen their need but are trying to meet it in an unsatisfactory way (Works Salvation).
- Still others have reached the rock but decided to build elsewhere. (Compromising truth and principle)

C. The storms will come.

Close:

Will you stand the test? You will only if you have built on a The Rock (Jesus) for he has stood the test and won the victory.