

The Two Houses

Matthew 13:34 *“All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them.”*

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Matthew 7:24-27 *“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: 25 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. 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: 27 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.”*

Matthew 7:24-27 provides us the Scripture for this parable. Christ began to speak a lengthy sermon in verse 3 of chapter 5. The sermon ends with chapter 7 verse 27. This is one of, if not the longest, uninterrupted messages spoken by Christ in the Bible. Look at your red-letter edition Bible and note the long passage in red.

This parable that we now undertake is Christ’s conclusion to a long message. In this lengthy message, Christ has spoken many parables. So, it is not a surprise that he would end the message by speaking another parable. This parable is spoken by Christ to make sure all men know the importance of heeding what He has spoken in His message. We ought to know well the importance of God’s spoken Word. Thus, how much more important is His Word when we see Christ take the time to remind us of its importance? We had best take heed.

In verse 24 Christ places a charge to everyone who has sat on that mountaintop and listened to him speak. He uses the words *“whosoever heareth these sayings of mine.”* Is this all he says? Is it sufficient to “hear” only? The Lord adds the words *“and doeth them.”* James 1:22 *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers*

only, deceiving your own selves.” Hearing alone is not sufficient but we must also *do*.

To the man that heareth and doeth the commands of Christ, He has something good to say. Christ says he is a *wise* man, verse 24. Who would not want to be known as a *wise* man? Christ continues to say a wise man is one who builds his house on a rock. How long does it take to build a house? Certainly a house is not built overnight. Thus, the fact of building a house speaks of a long-term activity. This long-term activity of house building represents your life! I Corinthians 3:12-13 *“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”* You *life* is the building of a house, whether of perishable material or imperishable material.

Where would a wise man place his home? The Lord says he would build on a *rock* in verse 24. Matthew 16:18 *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* The rock is Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 3:11 *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

Think with me about the foundation of a house. You cannot see the foundation of my earthly home. In fact, it is not such an attractive part of a house. We often place shrubbery over the foundation to conceal it. Has anyone ever invited you over to show you the foundation of their home? Probably not, for they want you to see the carpet or walls or windows.

How, then, is the foundation judged? Many houses may look the same and look equally well on the *exterior*. What about the *foundation*? A foundation is judged by its strength. In verse 25 we learn that the trials of life come to test the foundation on which our life is built. Verse 25 speaks of “rain, flood and wind.” These are trying conditions. Any house can withstand fair weather. But, when the trials and storms of life come, only the house set on the rock foundation will prevail. Good people who do not belong to Jesus appear to be build well. They feel that their house is fine and wisely built on money, health, friends, and successful business. The

tragedies and trials of life bring their house down, for it is not on the rock, Christ Jesus.

The foolish man builds his house on sand. No doubt Christ had beheld strangers who came to Galilee and were unaware of where to build a house. They chose a level spot that looked good to the eye. They built their house and when rain, flood, and wind came, down came the house. If you choose a new location on which to build, speak to the neighbors or hire an expert to check the soil before building. A large store was recently built in our city. I observed soils engineers drilling to test the ground to see if it was suitable for construction. We like to build a home which has a nice view. In California, homes are built on hillsides for the good view, but the earth will not hold the house when the heavy rain comes. Check the ground before you build. Religion will collapse. Tradition will crash. Jesus is the only foundation.

Notice the calamity of the failure of the foolish man's house. Verse 27 says "*great was the fall of it.*" A roof may gradually sag. A wall may gradually lean. However, foundation failures are sudden and catastrophic to the house. Seldom can the house be salvaged. A beautiful building in Pittsburg, PA that had won prizes for its attractiveness was torn down recently. Why? It was discovered that the foundation was failing and there was no hope for repair. The building was hauled to the landfill.

What is the foundation that we recommend? Christ has just spoken many words and many parables beginning in Matthew 5:3 and ending in our present Scripture. It is a lengthy message covering many subjects. Then, he concluded His message by saying "*if you will hear and do what I have just spoken, you will be wise.*" Thus, to you and me, the correct and sure foundation is THE WORD OF GOD- the BIBLE. My soul and, I trust, the better part of my life is on that same rock of which it can be said "the gates of hell shall not prevail." Christ is stronger than the Devil, all his demons and hell itself.