

“THE SOLID ROCK”
Matthew 7:24-27
(c.f. Luke 6:46-49)

I. BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

A. We first need to hear

1. *Scriptures: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*
 - (1) *Matthew 17:5 God, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*
2. We first need to know what is expected if we are to act on it, right?
3. One of the problems today is that we don't take the time to listen
 - a) We are busy; don't have time; We are distracted
4. Becoming a lifelong student of God's Word. Jesus, the Word of God, is the Rock.
 - a) **C.f. 2 Tim 3: 14-17, Hebrews 4:12**
 - b) Daily reading (Bible in one year)
 - c) Take notes, keep a journal
 - (1) How many of you remember anything you crammed for?

B. Then we need to act (logical "and": we need both conditions for it to be true)

1. Petra = large expanse of solid rock; unmovable;
2. cf. Luke 6: dig deep; not surprising that the foolish man has it easier; he doesn't have to dig deep
 - a) Non-action it always the easy way out; the wise man acted on what he knew and dug deep
 - b) **C.f. James 1:22**
 - (1) APP: the growth and maturity and spiritual victory are in the doing;
3. Hearing + Doing = Obedience = Wisdom (wise builder)
 - a) *Quote: "Obedience is matching our behavior to our beliefs"*
 - b) Jesus is saying that His true followers not only hear His words, but they obey them, allowing His message to make a difference in their lives.
 - c) The house built on the rock is a life of obedience; a life of genuineness.
 - (1) **C.f. 1 John 2: 4-6**

C. It's the Lord who builds

Why is it important to build a firm foundation? Because as the parable continues, the storms will come.

II. WEATHERING THE STORM

A. Know that storms will come

1. Scriptures
 - a) 1 Peter 4:12-13
 - b) C.f. Matt 5:45 (no matter who we are or what our walk in life is)
2. APP: sickness, death in the family, lost job, divorce
3. Don't go looking for or creating your own storms
 - a) How? Sin. Creating strife; unethical behavior in business, sexual sin, etc.
 - (1) ILLUS: Dave Barry preparation for Hurricane season: move to Nebraska

B. Storms reveal the condition of our foundation

1. Storms strips everything away and gives us a reality check on the condition of our foundation
 - a) "As character is revealed by fruit, so faith is revealed by storms".
2. Often no one can tell the difference until the storm hits: that's when you see who is wise and who isn't
 - a) Note the difference between the builders: Same house, floor plan, neighborhood
 - (1) Wise man and Foolish man comparison: in most respects they are alike
3. It's easy to grab onto things that are not stable
 - a) Let's face it: storms are scary: the wind is blowing; they are howling; things may be stripped off
 - b) ILLUS: My opportunity to get a job testing software for an online betting/poker company

C. God will see you through the storms

1. C.f. 1 Cor 10:13
2. C.f. Romans 8:28.
3. APP:
 - a) Your marriage is going through a storm? → Turn to the Rock
 - b) Your life is shifting and unstable: → Turn to the Rock He will set you on his firm foundation
4. Beware the Enemy's tactics: ("Why me?"): challenge foundational truths: Psalm 73: 1 says "Truly, God is good."

The last point is here because I wanted it to speak to it last. It does not follow in a sequential progression but it is last because it is most important; it emphasizes what I think Jesus' point is to his parable.

III. A HOUSE THAT STANDS

A. Jesus is talking about eternal life

1. C.f. *Matthew 7:21*
2. Our house is our life

B. We will all face one last storm

1. C.f. *Hebrews 9:27 ... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment*
 - a) The statistics are staggering: out of every 100 people, 100 die
 2. There will come a day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
 3. Don't wait until that one last storm before you discover that your house is in shambles and your life in ruins

C. There is only one Solid Rock Foundation

1. Jesus
 - a) C.f. *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*
2. Be like the wise man who builds his house on the Rock
 - a) Listen to Him
 - b) Act on it.

Where is your house today? Do you know what your foundation is like? Does it look ok on the outside, but you know it is on the sand? Do you want to a house on the rock and not know where to begin?

CLOSE

1) The Gospel:

- a. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)
- b. The wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)
- c. God demonstrates His love towards us in this: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)

2) Jesus is saying there is nothing you can do to earn God's grace

1. Undeserved
2. Unearned
3. Unmerited

3) He is inviting you to have your sins forgiven and follow him in a life of obedience. That is the only way.

- a. C.f. 1 John 1:6-9 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.