

BUILD YOUR HOUSE ON THE ROCK – MATTHEW 7:24-27

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus' sermon on the mount calls people to greater righteousness (**Matt. 5:17-20**).
2. He concludes the sermon with a series of illustrations that show that there are only two categories of people: those who hear and obey His word and those who do not.
3. His last illustration is a parable about two builders (**Matt. 7:24-27**).
4. Let us consider this parable and what it teaches us about what it means to truly commit ourselves to serve the Lord.

DISCUSSION

I. EVERYONE'S A BUILDER

- A. Jesus' parable confronts his audience with a momentous choice.
- B. All of those that were present had listened and heard His great message.
- C. Now they were faced with making a decision.
- D. What will they do?
- E. At the close of Jesus' sermon what people "do" is His focus (**Matt. 7:12**).
- F. Like the two builders of the parable, they will build their own "house."
- G. No matter what they choose to do, they will make a choice.
 - i. They will choose to hear and do what Jesus says.
 - ii. Or they will choose to hear and not do what Jesus says.
 - iii. They will choose the narrow way or the broad way (**Matt. 7:13-14**).
 - iv. They will choose to bear good fruit or bad fruit (**Matt. 7:15-23**).
- H. The same is true for you and me.
- I. All of us, like the two men in Jesus' parable are "building a house."
- J. Of course, the house represents a picture of the life that we choose to live, and we will all have to answer for our work (**2 Cor. 5:10**).
- K. We cannot help but do so (**Heb. 9:27**).
- L. The question is will we be wise or foolish builders?

II. EVERYONE'S CHOOSING A FOUNDATION

- A. The foundation that one builds on determines whether they are a wise or foolish builder.
 - i. One may choose a firm and solid foundation.
 - ii. Or one may choose a shifting and unstable foundation.
- B. What did the Lord's hearers choose?
- C. The Lord did not choose for them and He will not force you to build on one or other.
- D. The choice is yours and yours alone (**Deut. 11:26-28; Josh. 24:15**).
 - i. The wise man who builds on the rock is likened to the one who hears and does what Jesus says (**Matt. 7:24**).
 - ii. The foolish man who builds on the sand is likened to the one who would hear but not do what Jesus says (**Matt. 7:26**).
- E. We would do well to hear and understand Jesus' words (**John 6:68-69**).

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- F. But hearing and understanding is not enough.
- G. We must act on Jesus' word by obeying Him (**John 13:17; Jas. 1:22-25; cp. Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46**).
- H. What will be your foundation?
- I. What will you choose?

III. EVERYONE'S HOUSE WILL BE TESTED

- A. What did it matter which foundation the builders chose?
- B. In Jesus' parable, the houses were tested by rain, floods, and wind.
- C. While the sun was shining, one house seemed to be as good the other, but when the storms came, the builder's foundation made all the difference in the world.
- D. One withstood the storms and the other fell (**Matt. 7:25, 27**).
- E. Jesus' parable was powerful in the mind of hearers because of their natural surroundings.
 - i. "The wise person living in the Palestinian desert would erect a dwelling on a secure rock to protect the house from the flash floods that sudden storms created."¹
 - ii. "The floods that rush through Palestinian wadis after sudden downpours can easily wash away the sandy ground. The houses can be destroyed by cloudbursts and rain; the thought here is probably of mud houses."²
- F. Just like the builder's houses, we too will be tested.
- G. As disciples of Jesus, we can expect to face hardship, adversity, and all the trials and temptations of life (**John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12**).
- H. While these things will test our faith, Jesus is probably speaking of the testing we will all face in the Judgment Day.
- I. Just like the suddenness of a flash flood, so will the Judgment of the Lord come (**Matt. 24:36-44; 1 Cor. 3:10-15**).

CONCLUSION

1. What will you choose to do with Jesus and His word (**Matt. 28:20**)?
2. Jesus teaches us that our decision is not insignificant, but has eternal consequences.
3. When He comes we will stand before Him and give an answer (**John 12:48**).
4. Let us be wise and recognize as others have that Jesus' teaching "is not meant to be admired but to be obeyed."³

¹ Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, p. 134). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Luz, U. (2007). [Matthew 1–7: a commentary on Matthew 1–7](#). (H. Koester, Ed.) (Rev. ed., p. 385). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

³ Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, p. 134). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.