

Date: November 30, 2025

Title: Hearers or Doers?

Passage: Matthew 7:24-29

Summary:

Overview:

Two kinds of builders

- Wise builder
- Foolish builder.

Two types of responses

- Those who admire Jesus' message
- Those who do something about Jesus Christ.

Key Truths:

- Build your life on the strong foundation of God's Word.
- Make sure your foundation is on the rock.
- You need to make sure that you heed the words of Jesus

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How do you know you know Jesus Christ? How do you know you will stand when the storm of the Day of Judgment will come?
- What sets fools apart from wise people? Besides hearing the words of Christ, what else must a person do to be considered wise?
- Why is it difficult to apply God's truth in our lives?
- How can you build your life in Christ? What neglected command of Christ will you begin obeying this week?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Church membership

- while not explicitly mandated in a particular verse, it is clearly implied.
 - Verses speak to submission to leaders (can't submit to leaders if not part of a church)

- Verses speak to serving one another (can't serve others if not part of a particular church).
- Journey of church membership has also brought people to understand the true meaning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Some have had misperceptions such as thinking the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about learning about what God wants us to do and living a moral life to please Him.
 - Truth: God sent His Son to die for your sins where we could not do anything to save ourselves.
- There are many people who know the language and know how to
- Question: are you a true follower of Jesus Christ?
 - Have you built your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ?
 - Not on traditions from family.
 - Not on involvement at all church.
 - Not looking good or saying what is good.
 - Have you had a moment where you have turned from your sins and looked to Jesus Christ as only way of salvation?

Context of Passage:
Two types of people

- Hearers = people who hear God's Word but does nothing with it.
- Doers = people who hear God's Word but responds and obeys.

Question: are you a hearer or a doer?

Passage:

Matthew 7:24-29

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

EXPOSITION

House - what does it mean?

- Jesus' metaphor of a house to reflect people's lives.
- Earthly house points to a spiritual house where one's soul lives in.

- We all have a house with a soul.
- Question: Will your house stand when God's judgment comes through.

Overview:

Two kinds of builders

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I. Build your life on the strong foundation of God's Word.

Who is this message for?

Matthew 7:24

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Everyone

- anyone who hears God's Word.

who hears these words of mine

- Jesus is God.
- Points to all of God's Law.

Who is a wise builder?

who hears these words of mine

- need to hear the words of Jesus.
- How does Satan undermine the church?
 - Persecution
 - Infiltration

How know you are listening to the truth or false prophets?

1. Is the person saying in line what people have said about Christianity through the centuries?

- The creeds of Christianity are like the banks of a river.
 - Category 1 where basis of salvation to God.
 - Otherwise, there may be disagreements in the river.
 - Category 2 issues.
 - Ex: understanding of end times
 - “The main things are the plain things. The plain things are the main things.”
 - Jesus Christ is the only way to God. Exclusivity of Jesus Christ.
 - The full humanity and deity of Jesus Christ.
 - Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone by Christ alone.
 - Contrast: not needing to speak in tongues or do something in addition
 - Jesus plus something = nothing
 - Jesus plus nothing = everything.

2. Check the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- What is fruit? The effects on your life.
- Note: the fruit of the Spirit is singular
 - Not pick and choose.
- You can always manufacture the works of the Spirit but you cannot manufacture the fruit of the Spirit.
 - You can do good works / charity but not know God.

Matthew 7:21-22

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

II. Make sure your foundation is on the rock.

- Both houses look the same from above the ground.
- Analogy: The Three Little Pigs
 - All three houses looked like houses. But only one was made of brick.
 - But only one withstood the wolf’s blow.
- Lives can look similar from an observer.
- Likewise: A life can look religious until trials come.

"The rock" is Jesus

Matthew 7:24

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 16:16-18

Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Peter 2:6-7

For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

Isaiah 28:16

therefore thus says the Lord GOD,

“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’

Ephesians 2:20

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Matthew 7:25

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

- Jesus: If you truly want a house that will last and for eternity, build on Me.

Matthew 7:26-27

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

- everything is merely a charade and only for show.
- Many people may consider themselves “Christian” but not truly changed.
- Question: am I one who truly knows Jesus?

Question: How do you know you know Jesus Christ?

III. You need to make sure that you heed the words of Jesus.

1 John 2:4, 6

Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 2:14-20

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

James 2:26

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- Faith without works is dead.
- If your faith does not translate into genuine works, then it is dead.
- You do not do works to earn your salvation but it is proof of salvation.
- “You are saved by faith alone but saving faith never comes alone.” (Martin Luther)
 - Transforming faith will show in your life.

Both houses experienced the storm

Matthew 7:25

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:27

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

- Question: are you stable?

- The faith that cannot be tested is the faith that cannot be trusted.
 - Your faith will be tested in the storm.
- In moments of storm, your faith will reveal itself.
 - If you build your theology on circumstances, you will eventually conclude God does not love you.

John 11:21

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

- When Lazarus (their brother died), they thought Jesus forgot them.
- Trials come do not mean an absence of His presence.
 - God allows trials to make you stronger or make you more dependent on Him.

- True faith is not getting everything you want but accepting everything God gives.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

Two Responses to Jesus

Matthew 7:28-29

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

- Crowds are mentioned but there is not further mention of them following Jesus.
 - They listened but they fell away.
- Question: Are you following Jesus only because of what He gives you?

Compare: Jesus’ disciples: Judas Iscariot vs. Peter

- They both spent years with Jesus.
- They both heard Jesus’ teachings.
- Judas Iscariot even was so trusted at a surface level that he was entrusted to watch the money bag.

The difference between Judas and Peter?

- Their foundation.

- Peter's life was on the rock of Christ.
- Judas Iscariot was not.

Questions:

- is your foundation Christ?
- Is your life built on Christ?

One day the storm will come (God's day of judgment). How will you stand?