

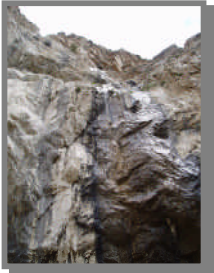


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"Is YOUR Foundation Solid?"

Matthew 7:24: (NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"

No matter who we are and no matter what it is we may believe in, we always have some kind of foundation that our beliefs are built upon. Sometimes that foundation is weak and sometimes it is very strong. Just because you are a follower of Christ doesn't automatically mean that your foundation is solid. How do I know that? Jesus himself taught a lesson on this very point and it is this very point that we are going to discuss. Stay with us as we look into the parable of the wise and foolish builders and try to determine just what makes a solid foundation for a follower of Christ to build a life upon!

Questions for consideration:

1. Who is this particular parable speaking of?
2. What are the sayings to which Jesus is referring?
3. What are the results of building on the two different types of foundations?

1. Who is this particular parable speaking of?

First the parable from two different Gospels: Matthew 7:24-27
Luke 6:47-49

Matthew 7:24 begins with "Therefore" - this tells us that the immediately preceding context should help us to identify *who* is being addressed: Matthew 7:21-23

Observations:



- All in this context claim to be following Jesus;
- Some in this context have done great things in Jesus' name;
- In spite of the "wonders" performed in Jesus' name, they were not true followers of Christ!

What can we learn from this? Discipleship is *doing* God's will and not merely words and actions! It is important to have fortitude and courage to keep moving forward. Jesus was after what was on the inside. The story of David and Goliath is a good example with David's solid foundation.

Is this thought born out in the parable?

Matthew 7:24: (NKJV) "Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"

Matthew 7:26: (NKJV) "But everyone who **hears** these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:"

Greek-English Lexicon: to hear; to attend to, consider what is or has been said; to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

These fruits are the true development of Christ's likeness. Sometimes you have to watch a tree a full year in order to see the fruits come out.



John 14:22-24: (NKJV) "²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³Jesus answered and said to



him, "If anyone loves Me, he will **keep** My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

Greek-English Lexicon: To "keep" God's words means:
"to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard"

Matthew 12:48-50: Doing the will of the Father creates an attachment to Jesus, closer than any earthly bond. He used his physical family as an example, that doing the Father's will means you are Jesus' family.

James 1:21-26: As a Christian, being a "doer" of the Word (notice, not necessarily a doer of mighty deeds) is the only genuine existence, the ability to build upon a strong foundation.

1 John 5:3-5: We can only truly experience the love of God by "keeping" (holding onto, tending carefully, taking care of by guarding) His commandments.

Obviously, the two classes of the "who" in this parable is a major point for understanding this lesson.



Observations:

- Both classes had received the Word;
- Both classes had been moved and blessed by the Word;
- As a result, both classes had a responsibility to the Word;
- Both classes were held accountable for their application of the Word.

2. What are the sayings to which Jesus is referring?

Matthew 7:24 Matthew 7:26

Back to the beginning of the context:

Matthew 4:25 Matthew 5:1-2

All of the following are the words of Jesus and therefore are the words of his Father:

John 12:49-50

Here are the "sayings" of Jesus, called the Beatitudes (or Be-Attitudes!). He was speaking to his disciples, but the crowds are listening in. Matthew 5:1-16

Brotherly concern before piety: Matthew 5:23-24

Love your enemies: (Simple but difficult!) Matthew 5:38-48: Jesus instructed us to rise to a level above which people don't normally rise. These are the sayings of Jesus that must be done in order to show we are building our structure on a solid foundation.

Practice your holiness in secret: Matthew 6:1-8

Store your treasure where your heart is - in Heaven: Matthew 6:19-21

Don't worry about the things of this world - instead seek God first: Matthew 6:31-34

Do not judge in a manner that you do not want to be judged: Matthew 7:1-5: We don't want to be judged recklessly.

Ask of God who gives generously: (but don't take this out of context with these other Scriptures.) Matthew 7:7-11

The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12

Take "the road less traveled" in your search for God: Matthew 7:13-16

God will judge based on our doing His will, not doing things of an impressive nature:

Matthew 7:21-23: Jesus led a very simple but very focused life. So we have the words - lots of words - and lots of teachings that require much more than a passing interest or a "Sunday go to Meeting" attitude to truly keep. Just going to church on Sunday doesn't make us "okay." Jesus is addressing those of us who have been given the opportunity to hear and hold closely his words.



1 Corinthians 3:11:
(New Living) "For no one
can lay any foundation
other than the one we
already have -
Jesus Christ."





3. What are the results of building on the two different types of foundations?

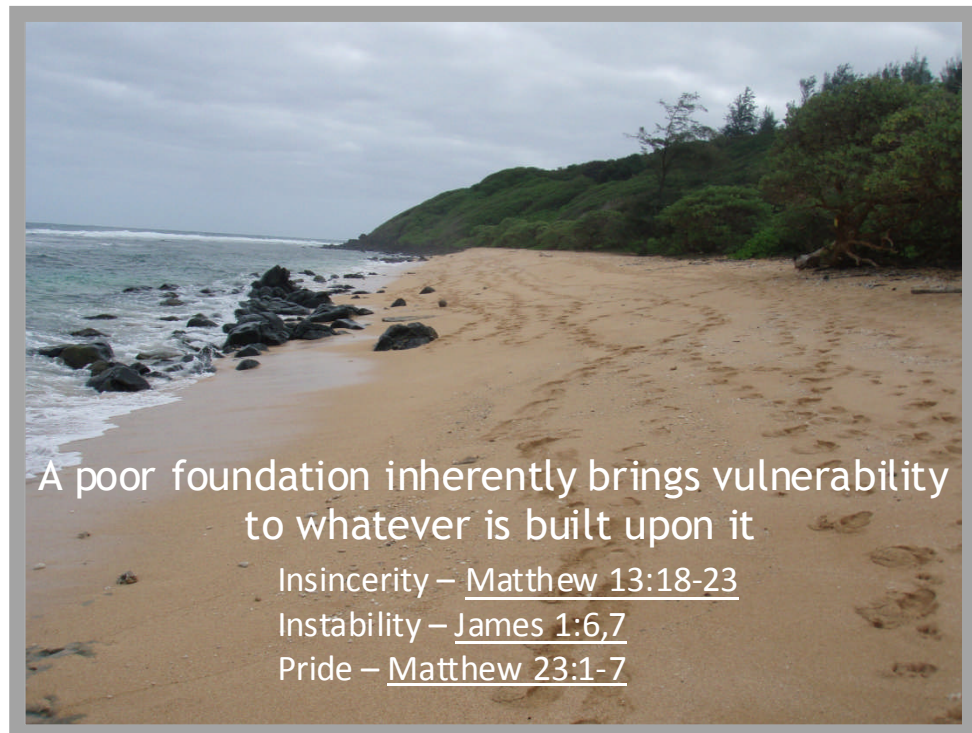
Let's look at the foolish builders first: **The results of the "storm" upon the foolish:** Matthew 7:26-27: There is a complete onslaught of natural events that come and test the house. The house under duress of the test does not stand a chance.

1 Timothy 4:1-3: There are those who once had the chance to stand on a solid foundation but preferred the teachings of other things.

1 Corinthians 3:13: What you build will be tested.

Isaiah 28:16-17: It sounds like Jesus took the basis for the parable from this Scripture.

A poor foundation inherently brings vulnerability to whatever is built upon it.



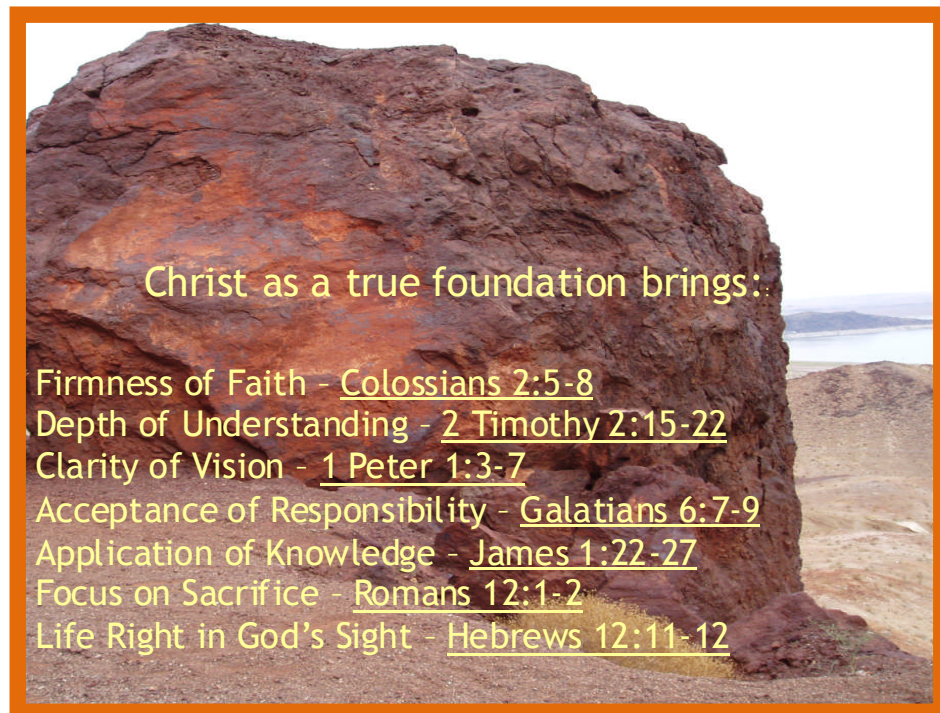
Insincerity: Matthew 13:18-23: There are those that received the Word and were excited, but they don't do the necessary work to build on the substantial foundation offered by the Word.

Instability: James 1:6-7: Stay firm!

Pride: Matthew 23:1-7: If we do things for the sake of being seen and lauded, we should enjoy it because it is all we will get. Christianity isn't about fame and being noticed; it is about being faithful. There are a variety of consequences for the one who has been given the precious words of Jesus to build upon, but who does not build his faith on the depth of the words; but rather likes the look of the words and builds on other things. *"...and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."* These are essentially "nominal Christians," those in name only.

The results of the "storm" upon the wise: Matthew 7:24-25

The foundation of rock = Christ: Matthew 16:13-18



Christ as a true foundation brings:

A firmness of faith that the storms of life cannot soften! Colossians 2:5-8

A depth of understanding that the storms of life cannot reach! 2 Timothy 2:15-22

A clarity of vision that the storms of life cannot blur! 1 Peter 1:3-7

An acceptance of responsibility that the storms of life cannot influence! Galatians 6:7-9

**An application of knowledge that the storms of life cannot dilute! James 1:22-27:
True Christianity doesn't fit with the morality around us.**

A focus on sacrifice that the storms of life cannot delude! Romans 12:1-2

A life that is right in the sight of God that the storms of life cannot touch! Hebrews 12:11-12

