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## How Strong is Your Foundation?

**Matthew 7:25:** (NASB) *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.*

Every Bible-believing Christian believes that they are building their life on the sure foundation of Christ. Jesus spoke about it - no, actually he warned about having such a belief without truly having the right foundation. He warned about the regret that would be experienced upon realizing that one's proposed Christianity was in fact only a pretense. The good news is that Jesus, along with his warning, provided all that we need to know about truly building on the right foundation. So...what do we need to know? Stay with us and let's find out!

First, let's compare and combine the two accounts:

**Matthew 7:24-27:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.*

**Luke 6:47-49:** (NASB) <sup>47</sup>*Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup>he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.*

One house is destined to stand and the other is destined to fall. Which one are we living in?

### Observations:

- *Everyone who hears these words of mine* - referring back to what he had just taught in the previous chapters. We need to look back at the context.
- Hearing Jesus' words is only the beginning - acting on them is the important thing.
- To get to the firm foundation of rock you have to dig through the soil first. It takes effort and other things have to be moved out of the way.
- It is the combination of a firm foundation + a well-built house that repels the storm.



**Christianity is a circus, Paul Washer, [reformedvoices.blogspot.com](http://reformedvoices.blogspot.com)**

- *Why is Christianity a circus? The Gospel doesn't have priority. It is a little thing! We have come to a point in Christianity in which we have toned down the attributes of God that we don't even know what they are, and we have so exalted man...*

When we look at Christianity, we do see the house built - but upon what foundation? Is it built on the solid words of Jesus?

Back to the beginning of the context: Who is Jesus addressing with these words? The disciples, but the multitudes are listening in. The words were meant for his truest followers.

**Matthew 4:25** **Matthew 5:1-2:** If you aren't a follower of Christ and you read the New Testament, it's as if you are reading someone else's mail! You are not looking at it in the proper context. The foundation is Jesus and his teachings.

**It is represented as the rock in this story: Romans 9:33:** Are we listening to the words of Jesus, or are we trying to make those words fit what we would like to have to feel comfortable? We want to find the truest foundation.

The "sayings" of Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount, called the Beatitudes (or Be-Attitudes!), is the beginning of what may be the most comprehensive set of teachings of Jesus recorded in Scripture, except for his final night with his disciples before his crucifixion. If we can carefully



understand the import of Jesus here in [Matthew 5-7](#) and [John 13-17](#), we can grasp what it means to be a Christian.

[Matthew 5:3-11](#): (NASB)

<sup>3</sup>*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (The humble.)*

<sup>4</sup>*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup>*Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. (This is how to live.)*

<sup>6</sup>*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (It is one thing to appreciate righteousness, but hungering and thirsting is when you can't go on without it.)*

<sup>7</sup>*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (If we are in a position where mercy is appropriate to give, we ought to give it. As we give it, we can receive it.)*

<sup>8</sup>*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (It doesn't say, Blessed are they who do everything just right! Our heart needs to be in the right place. It involves personal effort.)*

<sup>9</sup>*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

<sup>10</sup>*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (To be persecuted is to be pursued because someone doesn't like you because of righteousness. )*


<sup>11</sup>*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Standing up for the Gospel will not always be popular, but even though you are met with resistance, you are blessed.)*

These words set our minds to live in a Godly way. Are we living according to these words? What is the most important thing...gaining personal wealth?? We challenge those brands of Christianity focused on "me" instead of "Thee!" [Matthew 5:13-16](#): You are different from anybody else. Others should look to you and see inspiration of God through you! It is all about bringing praise, honor and glory to God our Father through Jesus our Lord. If people are glorifying you, there is a problem in the foundation.

Jesus focuses on us having brotherly concern before piety: [Matthew 5:23-24](#):

Thus far, how many of Jesus' words are about "how to get"  
and how many are about "how to give?"

Love your enemies: [Matthew 5:43-48](#): Jesus expects more from us.

 [Jesus Temptations, John MacArthur on Joel Osteen, Truthsource.net](#)

- *Satan told Jesus, Eat! You need to be healthy and whole! Why would you let yourself be unpopular? Dive off the temple corner and everyone will be wowed! You will be the Messiah, the champion! Everyone will hail you! And by the way, look over the kingdoms of the world, I will give those to you, too.*
- *Why are these false teachers so successful? Because they are in cahoots with the Devil.*

The account of Jesus' temptations was [Matthew 4](#) - shortly before his Sermon on the Mount. The next recorded event is that Sermon. He had just gone through putting Satan aside. **The art of Christian giving and generosity:** [Matthew 6:1-4](#): Make sure the giving you do is for the sake of giving only, not to show people how generous you are. Giving needs to come from the heart in a quiet, sincere, God-driven way. It is not for recognition. The reason for the giving is most important and should not be for attention.

**The art of Christian prayer:** [Matthew 6:5-8](#): Prayer is steeped in humility and praise for God. It is a conversation with the Lord. Jesus is giving a scathing review of those that stand on the corner and make a big fuss about it. That is their full reward. God is not pleased with that kind of prayer. What is the most important thing? To be heard? To be seen? No, to be heard by God and God alone.




**Store your treasure where your heart is - in heaven!!!** Matthew 6:19-21: The treasure is your relationship with God and Jesus, not your earthly prosperity. This is a lot different from what many preachers tell us. Do we listen to Jesus or to someone who makes us feel good, but who speaks in words not exactly what Jesus taught?

 **Explaining his gospel of prosperity, Creflo Dollar on Larry King**

- *King: Don't you think most people would say that if you have a corporate jet, whether the church owns it or not, is basically anti - what you are teaching?*
- *Dollar: Not at all! We teach a gospel that simply says according to the Word, it is God's will for you to prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. We also believe that the Father takes pleasure in the prosperity of his children. So with the First Amendment still in operation, whether people agree with it or not, it is the freedom to exercise what we believe is the Word of God.*

Is *this* the solid foundation Jesus talked about? Galatians 1:6-9: (NASB) The Gospel the Apostle Paul preached was Jesus Christ, crucified. The words of Jesus were not about accumulation.

**Don't worry about the things of this world - instead seek God first.** Matthew 6:31-34: Does this mean we can sit back and do nothing? Of course not. We have to fulfill our responsibilities, but we aren't to be overly focused on "stuff." What is the most important thing? Seek first the kingdom of heaven. **Do not judge in a manner that you do not want to be judged:** Matthew 7:1-5: What is the most important thing? Seek first the kingdom of heaven. Galatians 1:10: Jesus taught us to seek spirituality, not popularity. **Ask of God who gives generously:** Matthew 7:7-11: Jesus here says to ask God because He wants to bless us! However, these are the simple necessities of life, needed for our well being. God does want us to be happy in our service of Him, but part of this is to be happy in self-denial. Jesus gave us that foundation long before these verses.

 **The results of tithing as your faith, Eddie Long**

- *I believe you will open the windows of heaven, rebuke the devourer and protect my stuff!!! I believe everything You said! God says, we're in Las Vegas now, because I want you to take a risk with Me. You have let money possess you that you don't trust me enough to give you more than you give me...*

James 4:1-3: James puts this in perspective. You don't receive because you are asking for things that are for your own desires and not your spiritual service to Him. **The Golden Rule:** Matthew 7:12: We must be selfless and maintain the fruits of the spirit, not our wallets. **Take the road less traveled in search of God:** Matthew 7:13-23. This is part of the foundational teachings of Jesus. This comes right before Jesus speaks of the parable of building on rock instead of sand.

 **The rich young ruler in Matthew 19, Creflo Dollar**

- *Dollar: (this account) was about loving God with your stuff. If you keep reading down a couple more scriptures, it says and he received a hundred fold of everything that he gave, everything that he sold.*

But wait! Is that what it really says? Um...not exactly...

Matthew 19:27-29: Note that the disciples had no clue of any present riches promised - they followed Jesus for the sake of his teaching and not to gain anything.

- Who did Jesus tell the rich ruler to give his "stuff" to? THE POOR! Jesus did not say to give the money to him or his disciples so that he could distribute it for the ruler. He made it a matter between the man and his own conscience.
- Jesus did not promise the rich young man anything except eternal life.

Jesus was asking him to give up without getting. These preachers say, give it to me so that you can get it back.

If we are concerned about "getting" in terms of our happiness in life, self-esteem, prospering in all aspects of our lives, a bigger car...we can easily get caught up in emotions. This isn't a Gospel of Getting. When we are focused on spiritual things...what more could we want?



Matthew 19:21-26: Note that Jesus wanted no part of his possessions. What's with the camel reference? The Eye of the Needle was a small gateway used in ancient cities during the night. Camels could pass through, unloaded, on their knees. It's a struggle, but it can be done. The comparative lesson to us is amazing!

1 Timothy 6:6-9: There is nothing inherently wrong with riches. But this is not what we are to focus on. We aren't supposed to give so that we can get more. Godliness is a means of great gain. THAT is wealth untold. Build your treasures in heaven.

Matthew 7:28-29: Jesus finishes the teaching about the foundation and gives us so much to work with. How do we know we are following after the true Gospel of Christ? Read his words. It is a Gospel of spirituality and God-esteem.

*So how strong is your foundation...?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*