

THE WISE BUILD ON THE ROCK

Christ says that on judgment day, MANY will say to Him, “Lord, Lord,” only to hear Him say, “***I never knew you; depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.***” And then He proceeded to give this wrap-up warning as seen in Matthew 7:24-29.

Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

24 “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:

The “***Therefore***” ties back to and builds on what Christ has said in the sermon. Christ addresses these words to “***whoever hears these sayings of Mine***”. This relates to those who have HEARD! They know what Christ said, and now the issue is how they are going to respond. The sayings of Christ evidently refer to the contents of the whole previous sermon as seen in Matthew 5-7.

Christ puts the doing of His sayings on the same exact level as doing the will of the Father (cf. Matt. 7:21). In both cases, the issue is linked with having a place in the kingdom, as noted by the word “Therefore”. This clearly shows that Christ’s words and God’s will coincide as one and the same. And it shows us that Jesus is God in that His words carry the same authority as those of God the Father.

A major theme in Jesus’ ministry is “hearing” in the sense of appropriation. After giving the parable of the Sower and the soils in which only the good ground yields a crop (representing those who are saved), Christ then gave this challenge.

Matthew 13:9 (NKJV)

9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

In the prophetic Scriptures the Messiah is One Who comes with authority and the true followers are those who hear and respond with obedience.

Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until **Shiloh** [the One to Whom it belongs] comes; And **to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**

Deuteronomy 18:18–19 (NKJV)

18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

19 And it shall be that whoever **will not hear** My words, which He speaks in My name, I will **require it of him.**

Hearing followed by **doing** is indicative of true faith. We are not saved by the doing, but we are saved by a hearing response that truly believes, and if it is real, it then shows in the life, not perfectly but certainly.

John 3:36 (ESV)

36 Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)

9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who **obey** him,

We are saved by grace alone (the cross) through faith alone, but the faith that saves desires to obey. The fruit of true faith is obedience. That is Christ's MAJOR point here at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

“Plain horse sense ought to tell us that anything that makes no change in the man who professes it makes no difference to God, either.” **A.W. Tozer**

Christ says those who hear His sayings and do them are like **“a wise man who built his house on the rock”**.

The house represents a person's life, and what they build on is the foundation. The great issue being illustrated is what a person builds their life upon. **“Each house represents a life founded on a governing principle.”** (Stanley Toussaint). That is the all-important issue! The wise person builds on the rock of Christ's Lordship and His sayings. The rock is the Lordship of Christ, and if Christ is truly recognized as Lord, it will be demonstrated in obedience – doing His sayings. Obedience and Lordship go together.

In the Bible, Christ is often spoken of as the ROCK – both prophetically in the OT as well as symbolically in the NT (cf. Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 10:4; 1 Pet. 2:6-8).

Matthew 21:42–44 (NKJV)

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: [In Ps. 118] ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? ...

44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

Falling on the stone represents the brokenness of repentance described in the Sermon on the Mount. Those not repentant will be crushed in judgment by the Rock that is Christ.

Daniel 2:34 (NKJV)

34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

Daniel 2:45 (NKJV)

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

Christ is the ROCK, and the wise man has Him and His sayings as the foundation for his life. In the Bible, you really can’t separate God from His Word. What you think of one, you think of the other. Faith personally recognizes the truth of God’s Word, submits to it, and rests upon it.

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The only real lasting foundation that one can build upon is Jesus Christ, the ROCK! Apart from Christ, all is vanity and a person is really building on nothing – nothing that will ultimately last (cf. Eccl. 1).

“When the testing of life’s foundation comes, only those who have responded properly to Christ’s teachings will stand.” – **Ed Glasscock**

Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,
16 and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!
17 For the great day of His wrath has come, **and who is able to stand?**”

Revelation 7:9–10 (NKJV)

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, **standing** before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, **“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”**

Revelation 7:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and **washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”

The wise person builds his life upon the ROCK foundation that is the Lord Jesus Christ – Who is Lord and Savior to all who believe in Him. And then Christ said...

Matthew 7:25 (NKJV)

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

The storm represents the testing times culminating in the ultimate testing of judgment day before God. That which is founded on the ROCK endures! A true faith is characterized by obedience to Christ and is found standing in the end.

We all struggle. James says to believers, ***“we all stumble in many things.”*** (Ja. 3:2). Yet, it is also true that true faith perseveres – by the grace of God it keeps on keeping on. A true faith consistently desires to obey God and even in failure down deep wants to obey (cf. Rom. 7:15).

The believer has a new nature, and this new nature, being wed to the Holy Spirit, always desires to obey Christ (2 Pet. 1:4). We still have the flesh (the old sin nature), and so we do struggle, but down deep the new man desires

to obey. And the end result of this is that true believers have a persevering faith (Gal. 5:17).

Colossians 1:21–23 (NKJV)

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.