

God Promises To Be Our Firm Foundation

Opener: When have you seen people respond in opposite ways to the same information?

Scripture: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. . . . ²⁵ Whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. James 1:22 & 25

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. Psalm 1:6

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding what Jesus explained through this parable is critical. It wraps up all He taught in the Sermon on the Mount and summarizes how to live strong—and it all starts with hearing. What was He implying when he referred to “hearing these words of mine”? Matthew 7:24, 26
2. Jesus contrasted two types of builders: one who hears His words and puts them into practice, and one who hears but does not act on them. What goes into choosing whether or not we put His words into practice? Examples? Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22 & 25
3. Everyone builds their life on something. Jesus used rock and sand to illustrate that just like a house, each life is built upon a foundation. How does a foundation affect an entire building? How does the foundation He’s talking about affect our entire life? Matthew 7:24-27
4. What do the rains, streams, winds, and a great crash represent? Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22, 25; Psalm 1:6
5. Can we make choices that result in a foundation that includes both wise and foolish choices? How does that play out when storms come? What can we do to minimize the damage if we realize we’ve done that?
6. Describe a life that has all the appearances of being strong and beautiful, but doesn’t have a firm foundation.
7. Can a life seem weak and vulnerable but actually be strong and stable? Why or why not?

Wrap Up: If we say “yes” to God and “no” to self we win. If we say “no” to God and “yes” to self we lose. Perhaps Satan’s greatest deception is clouding our understanding of what really makes life awesome. Rain will come down, streams will rise, and winds will blow, but the life that rests secure in Jesus will stand strong. As the song says, “I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation. I will put my trust in You alone, and I will not be shaken.”