

May 28, 2006
“How To Build A Secure Future”
Matt 7:24-29 (from New International Version)

[Click here for the notes that were in the bulletin.](#)

"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."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things [*Sermon on the Mount, Matt 5-7*], the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matt 7:24-29 (THE MESSAGE)

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. 25 Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit — but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

26 "But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. 27 When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

28 When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. 29 It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying — quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

In our text for today we have two men, two houses, two foundations, two results after a storm, and two responses to Jesus.

Two men set out to build a house. Each man intends for a house to be built to last. Both want the most secure house they can build. Both want a house of significance. Bad weather attacks each man's house, but with different results. The house represents our lives. We all set out and plan to have the most secure and significant life we can build for ourselves and our family. The storm represents the pressures and troubles we all face in this world. We all go through trying times; times of sickness, suffering, grief, disappointment, misunderstanding, trials, temptations, doubts, fears, worry, and we will all experience death and judgment. In the Bible rain and storm has been used to refer to

God's judgment. Like in the story of Noah. God sent a storm and a flood as judgment upon the world.

TOP 10 THINGS OVERHEARD ON THE ARK

10. "Did anyone think about bringing a couple of umbrellas?"
9. "Hey, there are more than two flies in here!"
8. "Wasn't someone supposed to put two shovels on board?"
7. "Okay, who's the wise-guy who brought the mosquitoes on board?!"
6. "Help! I need some Pepto for the elephants, QUICK!"
5. "Don't make me pull this ark over and come back there!"
4. "No Ham, you cannot eat the pig!"
3. "And whatever you do, DO NOT pull this plug out."
2. "Nice doggie..."
1. "Are we there yet?"

So two men, both build a house, both houses are attacked with bad weather. Or two people, each set out to build their lives, both lives are attacked with pressures and troubles and just as there were different results in our story, there are different results in the lives of people when the storms of life come. One man's house stood strong, "The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall..."

But the other man's house, "fell with a great crash." What made the difference?

The difference was this (v24) one man was wise and "built his house on the rock." But the other man (v26) was foolish and, "built his house on sand."

I heard one time of houses that were built over an old land fill. After the houses were sold and people were living in them for awhile they noticed cracks in the walls and in the foundations. It was discovered that as the land beneath the houses was settling the houses were sinking, causing these cracks and causing the house to not be as structurally strong as when they were originally built.

It is easier to build on sand but it is foolish to build on sand. Eventually the sand gives way and the house collapses. You have to search for rock or dig down until you find rock, and it is harder to build on rock, but in the long run it will be worth making the right decision to build on rock.

Well let's get to the heart of the matter. What is building a secure and significant life on rock and what is building an insecure and insignificant life on sand?

(v24) "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."

To be wise and build a strong life that will stand under the pressures of life, hear the words of Jesus and put them into practice. To be foolish and build a life that will not stand under the pressures of life, hear the words of Jesus but do not put them into practice.

Notice first of all that both men heard the words of Jesus and had an opportunity to respond to His Words. Many people today hear the words of Jesus. You hear them in church, you hear them when you read the Bible or attend a Bible study. You may have heard them growing up in your home or in Sunday School. You may hear them on the radio or television, from someone like Billy Graham. But here is the key: hearing is not enough. The key difference between the wise man and the foolish man is that the wise man not only hears, he puts into practice the words of the Bible.

While there are some similarities in our story (2 men, both built houses, both had their house attached by a storm); there are also underlying differences. One was wise one was foolish, one built on rock, one on sand and one house did not fall, but the other fell with a great crash. The word foolish is from the Greek word *moros* (mo-ros'); [that sounds a lot like our word *moron*]. It means idiot, dull or stupid ... blockhead. The word is offensive and I think the translators were being kind to use the word foolish...or they were uncomfortable with the word *idiot*. (My mom would get very upset with me if I called one of my sisters an idiot). Listen, don't be stupid, don't be a blockhead. Don't just hear the words of the Bible and not put them into practice. If you want a life that will stand under the pressures of life and will be able to withstand the final judgment day of God then hear and put into practice the words of the Bible.

I'm not saying you can earn your way into heaven by doing good things. If you read the rest of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), indeed if you really know the Bible you know that it is impossible to keep it perfectly and never fail to keep every word. Yet, God commands us to keep every word. If that is what is required to get to heaven...I'm doomed.

The first teaching of the Bible we have to hear and obey is the teaching that we are all sinners and cannot see the Kingdom of God unless we confess our need for Jesus to forgive our sin. (Matt 5:3(NLT) "God blesses those who realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them."

It is only as we repent, put our faith in Jesus that our sins can be forgiven that we can receive His Spirit giving us the power we need to live out His words.

Listening alone is not enough. Hearing must lead to action.

I heard of an multi-car accident on a major highway. Ten people were killed and several more were injured. One man in the wreck was able to climb out of his car. He went

down the road to warn other motorists. The newspaper reported how some of the people beeped their horns at him and continue driving into the crash site. When Jesus talks of the destruction or life caused by not putting His words into action, He is not trying to frighten or threaten you, rather He is warning you of danger because He loves you.

What we believe must affect our lives. That means repentance, faith in Jesus, our need of the power of the Holy Spirit and to live out the Word of God. To have a strong, transformed life, that will save you now and in the final judgment of God is very simple, yet revolutionary...hear and obey the teachings of the Bible. To have a life that will fall a part and be destroyed is even simpler ... hear the words of the Bible and do nothing.

But don't be stupid, be wise, hear and do something.