

SERMON: TWO MEN, TWO HOUSES, AND ONE STORM

Matthew 7:24-27

(24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock: (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock. (26) And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be liken unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Introduction

The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes and it concludes with the parable of the wise and foolish builders. The Sermon on the Mount gives a preliminary summary of the teaching of Jesus. Jesus and His doctrines are the foundation for an abundant life. Jesus used this parable to let them know they were to do more than just listen to His eloquent words. They were admonished to heed His words and put them into action. To do otherwise was to be foolish and would lead to disaster.

Exposition

1. Two Houses with Similar Features, but with One Subtle, Vital Difference
(A False Equivalency)
(Things That Look the Same May Not Be Exactly the Same)
2. One House with a Faulty Foundation Built By a Foolish Man
(Near a River Bed or a Wadi)
(Thoughtless Choice of Location)
(No Due Diligence)
(In A Hurry)
3. One House with a Firm Foundation Built By a Wise Man
(Thoughtful Choice of Location)
(Much Site Preparation-Hard Work)
(Demonstrated Patience)
4. One Fierce Storm Attacked Both Houses
(The Unavoidable Occurred)
(Rain From Above, Flooding From Below, Wind All Around)

(No One Is Exempt from the Storms of Life)
 (Many Types Of Storms: Illness, Financial, Domestic,
 Racial, Occupational, Rejection, Etc.)

5. One Tragic Ending

(Total Collapse during the Storm)
 (The Foundation Could Not Take It)
 (Everything Was Fine Until the Storm Came)
 (Immediate Gratification Leads to Delayed Devastation)

6. One Triumphant Ending

(Survived the Storm)
 (The Foundation Was Stable)
 (You Cannot Avoid the Storms, but You Can Build To Withstand
 Them)

7. One Question: Can You Stand The Many Storms Of Life?

Allow me to answer this for the Antioch-Lithonia members. “Yes, I can endure any storm because I am rooted, grounded, and anchored in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior and I am covered by His Holy Protective Blood.”

Closing Thoughts

Allow me to close by quoting a few lines from a familiar hymn:

“My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
 On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
 All other ground is sinking sand,
 All other ground is sinking sand.”

Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

Related Scriptures

Luke 6:47-49; Isaiah 28:16; 1st Corinthians 3:11

End Note

It was a common thing in this culture to construct temporary, “make-shift” structures on sandy soil. These structures were similar to the structures homeless people construct today. The sandy terrain was naturally flat and lended itself easily to the insertion of poles, sticks, or staves. It was also common to pitch tents in the sandy soil for the same reason. Remember Apostle Paul was a tent maker. Many of the people were nomads and just about everyone traveled several times a year to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast days. On their way they would set up temporary structures or pitched tents

to get a good night's rest. They would always make camp in the pliable sandy soil. Sometimes it was near a river or wadi; this ensured an adequate water supply. Elijah probably built one of these temporary structures when he hid from Jezebel by the brook called Cherith. John the Baptist probably built one near the Jordan River. The man that built his house on the sand was foolish because he built a permanent structure on terrain that was suitable only for temporary structures. All of the listeners probably thought: "Nobody in his right mind would do that; his elevator must not go all the way to the top. There must be a few cards missing in his deck." This was the exact response Jesus wanted. He wanted them to see how foolish and detrimental it was to hear His divine, logical truth and not put it into action.

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