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Matthew 7:24-29
Righteous Living

From these concluding verses of Matthew 7, it is apparent that both the saved and unsaved will experience storms. Storms do not discriminate. God does not discriminate in allowing of storms. Jesus said in Matthew 5:45, ***“For He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends His rain on the just and on the unjust.”*** The rain of life falls on the righteous and unrighteous. Everyone saved or unsaved experience storms. Please understand that storms have purpose! Storms of life are tools to test the foundation of your faith.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of visiting and viewing one the fine homes Sis. Regina Williams built. In conversation with Sis. Williams, she said, “the most important part of a house is the foundation. The solidity of the foundation determines the security of the house. Beauty is secondary to foundation. Making sure the foundation is right to bear the weight of the house is first and foremost. The foundation determines the durability of the house.” Wow! The same holds true about your life. The most important aspect of your life is the foundation of faith. It is not how good your faith looks, but rather what can your faith handle and how durable is your faith. You can have a good looking faith that fizzles before the finish, shatters in storms. You need a firm solid faith that is anchored on the Rock!

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a depiction of two builders. One is wise, while the other is foolish. One built on a rock, while the other built on sand. The difference between these two builders is the foundation upon which they have built their houses. The two builders represent everyone who hears the words of Jesus. After hearing the words of Jesus you will either be wise or foolish.

Foundational Faith (Matthew 7:24-29)

- I. Hearing and doing Jesus’ word is Wise Building: Jesus said in verses 24-25, ***“Therefore whosoever heareth these saying of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock (7:24). Then, 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 (7:25).***

It is important to hear the word of God. The word “hear” means more than merely listening. It implies both a grasp of what is intended by the statements made and agreement in the truth.

John 5:24, ***Truly, truly, I say unto you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life.***

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

It is important to do the word of God. Jesus warns His followers that to have heard His words is useless unless they put them into practice.

James 2:14-17 *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

You are a wise builder if you put the word of God into practice. Jesus said, “I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house on a rock. Rock building is not surface building. The rock according to Jesus in Luke 6 is not on the surface. To build on a rock requires rigorous effort. You must dig deep to lay the foundation on a rock. The rock is Jesus Himself. The rock is the teachings of Jesus. Only the life founded upon and guided by the principles of Christ shall stand.

Rains, floods, and winds represent the fierce storms from above, beneath, and all around. Life’s storms are collectively the trials, the temptations, and persecutions which come upon us from without. There comes a time to every life when these things thron together and test the foundation of our faith. You really don’t know the foundation of your faith until you experience one of the dreadful storms lives can bring.

- II. Hearing and not Doing Jesus’ word is Foolish Building: Verses 26-27 *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 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.*

All of this is a recapitulation, in the negative, of what was said in verses 25-26. Sand represents ignorance of Jesus’ teaching. . Christ is not to be found on the surface.

When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His doctrine (7:28). The word doctrine simply means “teaching.”

The crowds are astonished because Jesus teaches as one having authority, and not as the scribes (7:29). The scribes were the learned men and teachers of the Jewish nation. They would read a passage, and then teach what various other rabbis had to say about the passage. However, Jesus teaches with authority. The scribes consume much of their time in useless disputes, “vain jangling.” Jesus was open, plain, grave, useful; delivering truth as it became the oracles of God; not spending His time in trifling disputes, and debating questions of no importance.

Jesus showed that He had authority to explain, enforce, and change the ceremonial laws of the Jews. He came with authority such as no man could have, and it is not remarkable that His explanations astonished them. When Jesus speaks, God is speaking.