

## ***A Tale of Two Builders***

*Matthew 7:24-29*

The purpose of the Lord Jesus in giving us this parable is to illustrate the danger of hearing God's word, but not doing them. People can be self-deceived when they say but do not do (vv.21-23), and when they hear but do not do (vv. 24-27).

In this parable, two builders built their houses on different foundations (rock and sand). Both houses experienced the same calamity (rain, flood wind) but had different outcomes (one remained standing and the other was destroyed and washed away). The difference lies in the foundation. Our Lord Jesus wants us to learn that the reality and genuineness of our faith rests upon the foundation of hearing and embracing and obeying the word of God.

**1. *Only those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's lordship are His disciples***

Those who hears Jesus' words and act on them will be like the wise man. It is not enough to listen to Him, it is not even enough to acknowledge Him (though we must do both of those things); we must go on to believe and obey Him. This is the mark of true (saving) faith (John 15:14, 14:15,23; cf. Matt. 12:50, Luke 11:28, I John 5:3). If a man claims to love Christ, but refuses to obey Him, that man is self-deceived (James 1:22ff.). Obedience is the fruit of saving faith (John 15:8, cf. Gal. 5:6; 6:15, 1 Cor. 7:19; Heb. 5:9; 1 John 2:3-5). The wise man builds his house upon the rock of God's word. He understands that "*in keeping thy commandments is great reward*" (Ps. 19:11; 119:35). How do we know whether our faith is real? We need to look at our obedience toward Christ (2 John 6; 1 John. 3:9).

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**2. *Those who \_\_\_\_\_ hear and do not obey will be \_\_\_\_\_***

Both builders heard the word of God but Jesus says the foolish man is he who refuses to obey His teachings. "Foolish" (*moros*) means to be senseless; to lack prudence or discretion. A fool is one who rejects the teaching of God in order to follow his own path and be his own god (Prov. 18:2, Psa. 14:1). Building on sand represents a lack of obedience to God's Word or a life lived according to man (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). It describes those who are always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 3:7); those hearers on thorny ground (Matt. 13:20-21). God calls us to obey the whole counsel of God, not just those that we want to hear. Note: partial obedience to Christ is still disobedience to Him. This parable focuses on what happens to false believers on the Day of Judgment (Matt. 7:13;18;23). The tests of life will come to expose whether we stand with Christ or not.

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**3. *Only the Lord Jesus Christ can \_\_\_\_\_ the way of \_\_\_\_\_***

When Jesus finished this sermon, the crowds were astonished. But sadly, Matthew doesn't say that the people who heard the Lord Jesus Christ believed on Him. It is possible to hear faithful Gospel preaching, and not embrace Christ. But Christ makes it clear that at the last day, one's eternal destiny will depend on whether He knows you and whether you know Him, or whether you don't know Him, and He doesn't know you (Matt 7:21-23).

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Do you know Jesus Christ as the very Son of God? Do you know Him as the only way of salvation. Have you embraced Him? Have you embraced His word totally and completely? May that be so, for the sake of your salvation and your blessing.