

A SURE FOUNDATION

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • TV233B

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Matthew 7:24-25

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 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.”

Let me give you just a moment to open your Bible to the **Book of Matthew**. I would like for you to use the Scripture as I speak to you on the subject: **“A SURE FOUNDATION.”** Our text will be taken from **Matthew Chapter 7**. I am going to read several verses of Scripture.

Here is the text in **Matthew 7:24 and 25**; *“Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them; I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock and the rain descended and the floods came and the wind blew and beat upon that house and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”* It did not fall because it was founded upon a sure foundation, upon the rock of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the closing words of our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount found in **Matthew 5, 6, and 7**. In these closing words of the Sermon on the Mount, the Master issues four, definite, distinct, warnings:

First of all, He warns all of us about following the religious crowd, what He calls a “*broad road*,” a broad and popular road.

Do you have your Bible open to **Matthew 7**? He says this in **Matthew 7:13**; “*Enter ye in at the strait gate for wide is the gate, (very wide), and (very) broad is the way that leads to destruction and many, there be which go in there at.*”

There is a multitude that goes down this road. This road is a popular road and it is a broad and wide road. “*Many there be which go in there at, because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it.*”

Do you get the picture there as our Lord was speaking? He said, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way,*” it is a broad highway. This broad way or this wide gate is the religious road devised by men, which allows any and all doctrine.

This road allows any and all practices, any and all gods and saviours. It doesn’t matter whom we believe or what we believe, just so we are sincere. It is an umbrella that can cover anything and everything.

It is just a “*broad road and a wide gate.*” Everyone just comes in no matter who they are or what they believe. It doesn’t matter how they are walking or with whom they are walking. It doesn’t matter what they stand for or what they have. It doesn’t matter, they say; “You are welcome and if you want to walk just come and walk with us.”

Our Lord warns us about this. He says, “*Rather, enter ye in the strait gate and the narrow way.*” That strait gate and narrow way has to be the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel of free grace because the Scripture says, “*There is one door*” and that door is Christ.

Our Lord says, “*I am the door. By me, if any man enter in, (enter ye in the strait gate), he shall be saved and go in and out and find pasture.*” The apostle Paul says, “*There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.*”

You see, that is the “*narrow way*” that I am talking about. There is nothing narrower than the truth. It is just like in mathematics when you say, “three and three are six.” There is nothing narrower than that. Truth cannot be broadened or widened; it is just that and that is all there is to it.

The apostle Paul says, “*There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father and one Gospel.*” The Scripture says, “*If any man preach any other Gospel (than that one Gospel), let him be accursed.*” “*If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed;*” that is strait and that is narrow. There is one sheepfold, one salvation, and only one Redeemer.

Our Lord warns us; He says, “*Enter at the strait, (single gate), the narrow way, for broad is the way and wide is the gate that leads to destruction.*” In Proverbs the Lord says, “*There is a way that seemeth right unto men and the end thereof is death (and destruction).*” God’s way is the

narrow way. Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.”*

Secondly: This is the warning that he issues in these closing words on His Sermon on the Mount:

In **verses 15 and 16**, He warns us about listening and following false prophets. Listen to the Scripture in these two verses:

“Beware of false prophets (preachers) who come to you in sheep’s clothing (disguised or camouflaged). They are imitators; they come to you disguised as sheep, but who are in reality, greedy wolves.

That’s a shame isn’t it? That’s the way it is and it has always been that way. Beware of false preachers who come to you disguised as sheep, but inwardly, they are greedy wolves. *“You shall know them by their fruits.”*

My friends; let’s be totally and completely honest. False preachers were plentiful in Israel. One time when Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel where there was a contest with the false prophets; there were four hundred and fifty false prophets of Baal and one prophet of God.

False prophets made their presence felt in the early church and there are multitudes of them today. In fact, John warns us by saying, *“Try the spirits (preachers).”* When he says, *“Try the spirits,”* he means the spirit that speaks through preachers.

They do not identify themselves as false preachers. No man is going to come saying, *“I am a false prophet.”* No man is going to come saying; *“I am a glory seeker; I’m not in this for the glory of God; I am in it for the glory of myself. I am in it for what I can get out of it. I am in it to fill my own bank account. I am in it to see how much popularity I can gain.”*

No man is going to say that or say, *“I am a covetous man. I am a huckster. I am praying upon poor widows and orphans.”* They disguise themselves. This is what the apostle Paul says, *“They disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness.”*

Do you know whose righteousness they are talking about? I will give you a key; they are talking about theirs and yours and not God’s righteousness in Christ. They never come preaching God’s free grace in Christ.

They come preaching their own righteousness and their own self-righteousness. The apostle Paul says, *“Even Satan comes as an angel of light.”* It is no marvel that his ministers come as ministers of righteousness. You can recognize them. Our Lord gives us a way by saying, *“You shall know them by their fruits.”* I hear this Scripture used all the time in reference to judging whether not a man is saved.

That is not what the Lord is saying here. Read it again; **verses 15 and 16**. He warns us to beware of false prophets. He says, *“They come to you disguised as sheep but they are really, inwardly, greedy wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”*

What are these fruits of a man’s ministry? What are the fruits of an apple tree? The fruits of the apple trees are apples. What are the fruits of a peach tree? The fruits of a peach tree are peaches. What are the fruits of a fig tree? Figs are the fruit of a fig tree. So, whatever kinds of tree it is, that kind of fruit is what it will have. That is true all the time, if it is an orange tree it will have oranges.

This is what these false prophets are; *“You will know them by their fruits.”* What are a preacher’s fruits? A preacher’s fruits are his converts or his followers. You will know them by their followers. They are converts just like them.

They came to our Lord one time and said; *“What are you preaching?”* He said, *“Ask them that heard me.”* So, you don’t have to go to a preacher and ask him what he is preaching; ask the people who sit in the pew. They will tell you better than him, because their lives are going to be conformed by his preaching.

If he is preaching flesh, that is the way that they will be. If he is preaching self-righteousness, then that is how they will be. If he is preaching Christ; they will be following Christ. They will not be following him; they will be following Christ. We have so many preacher followers because preachers are not preaching Christ and their converts are just like them.

Thirdly: In **verses 22 and 23** our Lord warns us about a hope for eternal life on the basis of our own works.

Listen to this; *“Many shall say to me in that day, (in that day of judgment, in that day of eternal judgment); Lord, have we not preached in thy name and in thy name cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? Then will I say unto them; depart from me ye that work iniquity.”*

I wonder why men and women persist in seeking acceptance with God, salvation, and eternal life, on the basis of their religious works, their religious professions, or by the deeds of the law. I wonder why they seek acceptance by their so-called good lives when the Scriptures are so plain in denying these things.

Listen to **Titus 3:5**; *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he hath saved us.”* How can you get around that?

Listen to **Ephesians 2: 8 and 9**; *“For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.”* Do you know what grace is? Do you know what free grace is? Free grace is the unmerited favor of God.

How can words mean anything else than what they say? Paul, at the conclusion of these powerful **chapters of Romans 1, 2, and 3** (which speaks of man's ruin, Jew and Gentile alike; there is depravity, corruption, and evil), plainly says in **Romans 3:28**, "*There is none good, no not one. There is none righteous, no not one.*"

Therefore, He says; "*We conclude that a man is justified by faith, not by the deeds of the law.*" In **Galatians 2:21**, Paul wrote "*If righteousness comes by the law then Christ died in vain.*"

Christ died in vain? Will you still contend that you will be accepted of God by what you have done? You might say, "Well, I am living a good life." Did Christ die in vain? You might think that God weighs our good deeds and bad deeds and we find out the outcome of that and then we go to heaven or hell. Then Christ died in vain; is this what you are saying?

In **Galatians 4: 4 and 5** the Scripture says; "*In the fullness of the time God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were made under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*"

How can words be any plainer? "*We are not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish or spot.*"

Our Lord warns us about building any hope for eternal happiness, on any profession, experience, feelings, or works. He warns us about us having hope in sectarianism, denominationalism, rituals, legalism, laws, tithing, Sabbath keeping, dress, or whatever.

You may say that you don't do this, that, or the other. I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't cuss, I don't shoot pool, I don't play cards and I don't dance. You don't know God either; just add that to the list.

Salvation is in Christ. You might say, "I thank you God that I am not like other men; I do this, that, and the other." You are also sinning against a holy God. Salvation is in Christ.

I wish I could make that plain. There are still going to be folks lined up at the judgment, waiting to speak their peace. They will say, "Lord; I preached. I taught Sunday school. I was a deacon. I sang in the choir and I played the piano."

They will also say, "I gave my tithes, did this and that. He will say, "*Depart from me; I never knew you; you are workers of iniquity.*"

I wish someone would stand up and say, "Lord; I have sinned. My sins are ever before me. I need mercy. Receive me for Christ's sake. Wash me in the blood. Purge me and I shall be whiter than the snow. Cleanse me and I will be cleansed. Accept me in the beloved."

Fourthly: Our Lord warns us against the fatal mistake of building our hope of life on a false foundation.

Look at **verses 24 through 27**: *“Therefore, whosoever will hear these sayings?”* What did He just say? He warned us about that broad road. He warned us against those false preachers. He warned us about trying to get favor with God on the basis of our religious deeds.

“Therefore, if any man hears these sayings of mine and does them; I will liken him unto a wise man who built his house on a rock. And many trials came, rain from heaven, and floods from earth, and winds were blowing and beat upon that house with a heavy beating. It stood and it fell not because it was founded on a rock, a sure foundation.”

Christ said, *“Everyone who hears these sayings of mine, who does them not (and ignores them), I will liken him to a foolish man.”* A foolish man cannot take instructions. A foolish man will not hear God speak.

A foolish man says, “Well; I will go my way.” He builds his house on the sand, the shifting, uneasy, sand. *“And the trials came, the wind blew, the rain fell, the floods came and the house fell and great was the fall of it.”* Great was the fall of it because you didn’t have a foundation. It was your house built on the sand of your works and it fell.

In the story here that our Lord is giving us, there are two men who felt a need for a refuge or hiding place, a place to live. They needed a place to deliver them from a coming storm. These storms were storms of death, life, judgment, and the storms of God’s wrath.

Both of these men set out to build. They both had religious enterprises, enthusiasm, and zeal. They set out to build a house of hope, a religious refuge. Both of them finished their houses, completed their houses and moved into them. They felt rather safe, both of them did.

Then the storms came and the trials came. They will always come; *“In this world you shall have tribulation.”* That rain, which descended, indicates trials from heaven, trials from the providence of God. There are spiritual battles and conflicts.

There are trials from principalities, powers, and rulers of Satan for *“We wrestle not against flesh and blood alone but against principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness.”* Those storms, those testings, those trials come from heaven.

“Then the floods came;” these are trials from the earth. This indicates the trials of life, family, jobs, friends, flesh, and all these trials that are upon us every day throughout our lives.

Then there are the winds, *“And the winds blew.”* The winds are mysterious. Winds indicate mysterious trials such as mental, emotional, inward conflicts, which are so mysterious.

People will say to you; “What is wrong with you?” You might say, “I don’t know what is wrong with me.” Something must be wrong but you just can’t put your finger on it. These are mysterious trials.

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There are trials of depression, emotions, fears and doubts. All of these trials come. Well, the house that was built on the sand couldn't endure the trials.

This house couldn't endure the sun with its burning heat when it came out; it could not take it. This house couldn't take it when the rain fell, couldn't take it when the floods moved up gradually. This house couldn't take it when the mysterious winds blew because it was built on the sand, the shifting sands of feeling, experience, and works.

People will say, "I know that I am saved because I was there when it happened." They say that they are saved because they feel saved. They feel saved because they think they are doing well.

The law, along with the deeds of religion and self-righteousness could not stand; it was built on the sand. The sand shifts and the sand moves with the wind. The sand moves with the rain and the flood will take it right off of its foundation.

I will tell you another problem with this man's house; it was built quickly. You see; the man that built on a rock, the Scripture says; "*He dug deep and put his house on the rock.*"

The man that built this house on the sand built it in just no time at all. It was no trouble at all. He just built a house and built it quickly without concern, care, and without study like all the instant religion of our day.

Everyone gets instant religion. They don't know God and they don't know the way of salvation. They don't know anything about grace, heaven or hell, justification or righteousness.

They will go to hear a fast talking evangelist with a Whoop-Dee-Doo band. At the end he tells a story and everyone raises their hand and goes down the aisle and makes a profession of faith. By the next Sunday, they'll all be teaching Sunday school.

This is instant religion like instant oatmeal. It is a lot easier to eat a wafer than to seek Christ the Living Bread. It is a whole lot faster too!

It is a whole lot less trouble to receive water on the brow than to seek the living fountain, Christ Jesus, that well of water from Him. This water of life in Christ never runs dry. You can drink of this water (Christ) and never thirst again.

It is a whole lot less trouble to walk down an aisle than to seek the living God isn't it? It is a whole lot easier to seek an experience than to seek the living God. It is a whole lot easier to seek a profession than to seek the living God. It is a whole lot less trouble to shake the preacher's hand than to seek the hand of the living God.

Christ said, "*No man is able to pluck them out of my hand.*" There are plenty of them plucked out of my hand but none of them ever plucked out of His hand.

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That is a whole lot less trouble to make a journey down an aisle and shake hands with a preacher and say, "It's ok; it's ok." It is not ok; there are no nail prints in that preacher's hand.

It's a whole lot less trouble to tell the priest that you have sinned than to seek the mercy of the living God isn't it? It is a whole lot easier. You can go down and whisper in a man's ear that is just as sinful as you are. You can tell him all about it and he will say, "my son; you are forgiven." Only God can forgive sin.

It is a whole lot less trouble to be identified with a church than to be identified with a crucified, buried, and risen, interceding, Christ. It is a whole lot less trouble to give my tithe than to give my heart, wouldn't you say? It is a whole lot easier.

You know; it is difficult to say how long that foolish man lived in that doomed house. The whole problem was his foundation. That is where his problem was. That is his whole problem, the foundation.

Now then; the house that stood every trial took a while to build it. This house was not built over night. Isaiah identified with this; his house was built on a rock. Isaiah identified that rock and said in **Isaiah 28:16**; "*Behold, thus saith the Lord; I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone.*" Christ is that rock.

You know; the Old Testament talked about the rock that Moses smote and "*out of it came the water.*" That rock was Christ. That man who built his house felt the need for a refuge; he felt the need for a hiding place. He felt a need for a cleft in which to hide. He felt the need!

He didn't build on the sand. He was wise enough to seek the Lord in the Scriptures, to dig down and find that foundation, that rock, Christ Jesus. He says, "*It is a tried stone.*" This stone was tried by the law, tried by God, tried by Satan, and tried by men.

He withstood every trial. "*He was tempted as we are in all points, yet without sin.*" The Scripture says, "*He's a precious corner stone and He is a sure foundation.*" Do you hear that?

This house that stood was built on a rock and that rock was Christ. That was a stone, a tried stone, and a precious corner stone, a sure foundation. Why is this so sure? This stone is so sure because of who He is. He is the eternal, everlasting God. He is the rock of ages, cleft for me.

This stone is sure because of what He did. He perfectly redeemed all for whom He died. It is sure because of why He did it, to justify God and to reconcile God.

This stone is sure because of where He is now. "*Wherefore, God hath highly exalted him and given him a name above every name.*" He is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Our Lord hadn't entered the holy place made with hands but heaven itself. "*He that believeth shall not be ashamed.*" This is a sure foundation.

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Let me give you three or four things here in which God established this foundation:

First of all: Because this foundation was laid in the wisdom and purpose of God, it met every specification.

We have building inspectors in our cities. Foundations have to meet specifications or the house won't be built. God Almighty has some specifications such as His holy law, His holy justice, His holy righteousness, and Christ has met them all.

It is a sure foundation because this foundation meets every requirement, not only of God, but of every sinner. There is no trial that He hasn't already felt and conquered.

All the rain that ever falls on you fell on Him. All the floods that will ever rise in your life arose in His life. All the mysterious winds that ever feed upon your craft and your house, He has already withstood, because Christ is not only willing, but He is able to save.

Let me close with this comment:

You may say, "Preacher; it sounds a whole lot to me like you are discouraging men and women from a profession of faith in Jesus Christ rather than encouraging them."

No sir; that is not true! What I am doing is this; I am discouraging men from a hasty, careless, half-hearted, hand-raising, walking an aisle, empty religious profession, before men somewhere.

I am discouraging men from accepting the preacher's propositions, following his recipe of peace. It will give you no peace, no rest, and no hope, even after that man has left town. This is what I am discouraging.

I am discouraging men from instant religion, religion without conviction of sin, religion without real repentance toward God, genuine repentance. I am discouraging men from religion without sincere faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am encouraging men and women to "*search the Scriptures; they are they which testify of Christ.*" I am encouraging men and women to "*count the cost.*" I am encouraging men and women to "*seek the living God.*" I am encouraging men and women to "*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

I am encouraging men and women instead of playing the game of religion, to come to, bow to, and submit to the royal claims of King Jesus because He is "*Lord of lords and King of kings.*"

Meet Christ; bow to Christ, love Christ. Do business with Christ and not with a man. I leave you to the Word of God.