

Message #25**Matthew 7:24-29**

When you come to this text of Scripture, it becomes quite obvious that in order to be classified by Jesus Christ as a wise person, one must not only have a grasp of what God's Word actually says; but one must respond to it, apply it and obey it. One can do all kinds of religious stuff and still be classified as a fool by Jesus Christ. One can talk a good game and make himself look like some spiritual giant and in all reality be a spiritual loser. However, one who devotes himself to carefully understanding and applying the Scriptures is classified as a wise man by Jesus Christ.

Now there are four clear ideas presented in this text:

- 1) A man's spiritual life may be compared to building a house.
- 2) Each spiritual life has a choice to make as to its foundation.
- 3) All spiritual lives will be foundationally tested by rain, flood and winds.
- 4) Only one type of foundation will stand and be classified as wise.

ONE WHO IS WISE, BY GOD'S CLASSIFICATION, BUILDS HIS SPIRITUAL LIFE ON A CAREFUL UNDERSTANDING AND OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD.

Those who are right with God don't just hear the Word of God, they act on it. They apply it to their own lives. Contextually, it is not just some outward appearance or profession that means one is right with God. It is one who obeys the Word of God. People may be involved in all kinds of religious stuff. From programs to plays, from bands to choirs; but when it gets right down to it, real spirituality is determined, from God's perspective, by a careful understanding and obedience to God's Word.

CONCLUDING MESSAGE #1 – Every person who hears God's Word and obeys God's Word, is a wise man who builds his spiritual life on a rock.
7:24-25

Now the verbs "hear" and "acts" are present tense. What this means is this—the one who continually desires to hear God's Word proclaimed so he can continually act upon it is one who is wise. This person is as solid as a rock in his spirituality.

There are people who have spent an entire religious life more concerned about hearing what the denomination thinks rather than the Word of God. These are not wise people from God's classification. They may be impressive from man's classification, but not from God's classification.

Now an important point is brought out in **verse 25** about one's spiritual foundation—**it will be tested**. It will be tested from all angles.

(Way #1) - One's spiritual foundation will be tested by rain. **7:25a**

This type of testing will affect the roof of our faith.

(Way #2) - One's spiritual foundation will be tested by flood. **7:25b**

This type of testing will affect the floor of your faith.

(Way #3) - One's spiritual foundation will be tested by wind. **7:25c**

This type of testing will affect the side of your faith.

Now one who has built his spiritual life on a careful understanding and application of God's Word will discover his faith will stand. The spiritual life will not cave-in, it will not crack. A spiritual life built on the Word of God is as solid as a rock no matter what the test.

CONCLUDING MESSAGE #2 – Every person who hears God's Word and does not obey it is a fool who builds his spiritual life on the sand. **7:26-27**

Again the tense of the participles "hearing" and "acting" are present, meaning one who continually hears the Word of God and does not continually apply the Word of God is a fool in the sight of God. His spiritual life is not strong, even though he may project that it is.

(Way #1) - A fool's spiritual foundation will be tested by rain. **7:27a**

(Way #2) - A fool's spiritual foundation will be tested by flood. **7:27b**

(Way #3) - A fool's spiritual foundation will be tested by wind. **7:27c**

When the tested is tested, his spiritual life will collapse. His spiritual life will crack; it will cave in and fall.

Truth is it is much quicker to build a house on sand than on a rock. But in the end the one that stands is the one built on the rock.

The result of this instruction was that the Jewish crowd was amazed at His teaching. They should be. After all, you have God in person teaching God's Word. They had never heard anything like this before. Jesus taught with authority, not like the scribes who gave nice religious concepts. He talked about the kingdom and He talked about hell. He talked about a spiritual life that is wise and one that is foolish. Once one enters through the narrow gate, one may live life as one wise or as one who is a fool.