

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • TV050B

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, OCT. 16TH, 1977

By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2018

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY

Zebulon Grace Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501
PH: 606-631-9053

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.”

I’m going to read today from the book of **Matthew, the 7 chapter verse 25**. Now, if you have a Bible I’d like for you to turn to that Scripture, **Matthew 7:25** and let me speak to you on this subject: **“FOUNDED ON A ROCK.”**

Now listen to the Lord as He speaks: *“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 on a rock.”*

Now these are the closing words of our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount. All of you are familiar with the Sermon on the Mount. You’ll find it there in **Matthew 5, 6 and 7**.

And in these closing words our Lord issues four warnings. Now these are important. There are four warnings issued by the Master in these closing verses of **Matthew 7**.

First of all: He warns us against following the crowd.

This is a religious crowd that He’s talking about. They are on a road; it’s a broad road. But there are many of them on this road. He warns us about following this crowd. Listen to **verses 13 and 14:** *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth*

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

to destruction. And many there be which go in there at. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth to life and few there be that find it."

Now my friend; it's not easy to stand for the Gospel of grace when it's despised and hated by so many people. I'm not saying that it's easy. And it's not easy to be forsaken by friends and forsaken by members of your family because of standing for the Gospel of God's redemption in Christ Jesus.

That's not easy. And it's not easy to go against the popular religious tide. But our Lord said, *"Be thou faithful unto death and I'll give thee a crown of life."*

And our Master warns us here about following the crowd, the popular, religious, crowd on the wide, broad road that leads to destruction, the liberal road.

Secondly: In **verse 15** He issues another warning; He warns us against false prophets and false preachers.

Now listen to the warning in **Matthew 7:15 and 16**, *"Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing disguised as sheep."* Yet He said, *"Within they're greedy wolves. You shall know them by their fruits."*

Now there are two things here and I want you to listen to this; this is very important. You'll learn something here if you'll listen for a moment. These false prophets, these false preachers, do not identify themselves as glory seekers, as hucksters who make merchandise of men, as hucksters who glory in the flesh, but they come as ministers of righteousness.

Now Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians** that even Satan himself in his subtlety and deceit disguises himself as, *"An angel of light."* And his ministers, *"It's no strange thing that his ministers come as ministers of righteousness."*

But now wait a minute, whose righteousness? It's not God's righteousness; it's not Christ's righteousness, not a righteousness which is ours by substitution but your righteousness. They'll come preaching righteousness, but they'll preach your righteousness. "You do this and do that and do the other and God will reward you and God will bless you and God will save you if you do these things."

"They're going about to establish their own righteousness and have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God." And these are satanic preachers; these are false prophets.

Now watch the next thing about them; Christ said, "They'll come to you, disguised, they'll come to you as sheep in wolves clothing. On the outside they appear to be messengers of holiness but on the inside they're greedy wolves that seek their own glory and not God's glory."

Now watch this, Christ said; *“You shall know them by their fruits.”* Now this has been one of the most misused, misquoted, misapplied and abused, passages of Scripture in the whole Bible, *“You shall know them by their fruits.”*

And everybody goes around inspecting one another and saying; “Now I can tell you who is saved and who is lost. *“By their fruits you shall know them.”* I can tell you who knows God and who doesn’t know God. I’m a good fruit inspector. *“By their fruits you shall know them.”*

This has nothing to do with believers. This Scripture; now look at it; you read the Bible. In **Matthew chapter 7:15-20** our Lord repeats twice; *“You shall know them by their fruits.”* And both times He’s talking about false prophets.

He said, *“Beware of false prophets. They’ll come to you in sheep’s clothing. But inwardly they’re greedy wolves.”* The way to recognize a false prophet is by his fruits. What are the fruits of a false preacher?

Do you know what they are? They are his converts. That’s right, his converts. His converts are the product of his ministry. His converts are the product of his message. His converts are the product of his methods.

And the way to recognize a false prophet is by his fruits; it’s by his converts. It’s by the people that he’s taught into following him. They don’t know God, they don’t know His Word. They don’t know Christ. They do not know the Gospel. They know just what that false prophet taught them.

Now listen to this, **verses 18 and 20** says: *“A good tree cannot bring forth bad fruit. And a bad tree cannot bring forth good fruit.”* And a false prophet cannot with a false message and another Gospel and another spirit and another Jesus produce a son of God. He can’t do it. *“And by their fruits ye shall know them.”* Our Lord warns us about false prophets. *“He warns us to try the spirits whether they be of God.”*

All right; here’s another warning He issues; listen to it in **verses 22 and 23**.

Thirdly: Our Lord warns us against hoping for eternal life on the basis of our own works.

Now my friend you need to listen carefully to this and I need to listen to it because this is so dangerous, *“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. It’s not by works of righteousness which we’ve done but according to His mercy He hath saved us.”*

Now you listen to **verses 22 and 23:** *“Many; (there’s that word again, many) shall say to me in that day: Lord, Lord; have we not preached in your name and in your name cast out devils, and in your name done many wonderful works?”*

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“And I shall say unto them: I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Our Lord is warning us here in these verses against building a hope for eternity on our works, on what we have done in the name of and even for Jesus Christ.

I admire people that are faithful to the Gospel and who are faithful to the church and who are faithful to the kingdom of God and who are charitable, gracious, good, and kind and do good works. But salvation's not by works; it's by grace. *“For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it's the gift of God, it's not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Now our Lord warns us here; beware, do not go through the experience of death and wind up at the Judgment and stand before God and start pleading for mercy on the basis of what you've done, pleading for grace on the basis of what you've done for God.

Salvation and eternal life is not something you do for God; it's something God does for you. *“The wages of sin is death.”* That's the results of what we've done. *“But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Now I don't care how much you pay for a gift, how little you pay for it; it ceases to be a gift if you contribute anything to it.

He warns us, He warns us about following the crowd and He warns us about listening to false preachers. He says: *“You take heed what you hear.”* I know He tells us to take heed what we preach but you better take heed what you hear and who you hear. And He warns us against building a hope for eternal life on what we've done.

Fourthly: He warns us in **verses 24 and 25**. And He warns us here against laying a false foundation. Here is the essence of the whole thing. Here's where the work needs to be done. Here's the important part, the foundation, and the root of the tree. The branches are not so important in the tree or the house; it's the foundation and the root that's important.

Old Job said: *“The root of the matter is in me.”* His friends sat around him and said, “I don't believe you know God. I don't believe you're saved. I don't believe you're this, that, and the other.” He said, *“I'll tell you this, the root of the matter is in me; (the foundations right).”*

Listen to our Lord in **verse 24-25** He said; *“Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken him to a wise man that built his house on a rock and the rain descended and the winds blew and the floods came and beat upon that house. It fell not for it was founded on a rock.”*

Now; in this Scripture (I don't need to read it all) but here are two men who felt a need for a refuge. Here are two men who were for some reason were aware of a coming storm.

They were aware that they needed a hiding place, they needed a dwelling place, and they needed a refuge from this coming storm of God's wrath. So, both of them began to build; both of them began to build a religious home, a hope and a refuge.

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

And both of them completed their houses. Two builders built the house. Each one of them built a house. And they completed this house and they moved in. And evidentially they rested in those houses for the Scripture says, “Then the testing time came.”

I don’t know how long it was. It might have months, weeks, or years. But then the testing time came. The storm came, the storm of trial, the storm of death, the storm of accounting, the storm of judgment, and the storm of God’s wrath.

And one house fell. And the Scripture says: “*Great was the fall of it.*” And if it’s your house and if it’s your only house and if it’s your eternal house; brother great is the fall of it.

And the other house stood; it fell not. And the only reason given, “*one of them was founded on a rock.*”

Now this other house was built on the sand, the wrong foundation. It was built quickly, it was built without much effort, it was built without much concern, and it turned out to be a false refuge and it fell.

But the other house; the first thing I know about this other house is this; in **Luke chapter 6:48** our Lord describes this same thing, this same parable and He said; “*This man that built his house on a rock; he digged deep; (that’s what it says) and found the rock.*”

It took him some time to dig. He spent more time underground than on top of the ground. He spent more time making sure that his house was on the right foundation than he did putting up the structure.

Why this other fellow felt the need of a refuge, a need of a house. He just grabbed a hammer and a saw and a few boards and went out there and put him a house up overnight practically while his neighbor next door was excavating and digging and going down searching and seeking and hunting a rock.

And when he found that solid rock he laid his foundation on that rock. That was his foundation. And then he built his house. And when the storm of trial and death and judgment and wrath came; this house stood firm. But the house that was built so quickly without much concern, without much effort, it was swept away and the other house stood.

Let me tell you something, it’s far less trouble to eat a wafer than to feed on the living God and call it salvation, isn’t it huh, a lot less trouble? It’s a lot easier to receive a few drops of water on your brow than to seek the fountain of life and be cleansed and purified and bathed in the blood of Christ. Isn’t that right? It’s a lot easier.

It’s a lot easier to walk an aisle than to seek the Lord. It’s a lot easier to shake a preacher’s hand than to reach up as an empty-handed beggar and grasp the hand of omnipotence and say, “Lord; I need help.”

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

It's a lot easier to tell a priest that you've sinned than to go into the closet with a Publican and plead for mercy and grace in the name of Jesus Christ isn't it? It's a whole lot easier to be identified with the church than to be identified and united with a despised substitute, the Christ of the cross.

It's a whole lot easier to quit a few bad habits and call it salvation than to wait upon the Lord and be regenerated and be renewed and made a new creature in Christ.

Oh, I know, I know; we're living in the day of instant religion. The conviction is gone. We live in the day of instant religion. The struggle is all gone. The counting the cost; our Lord said, *"Let him sit down and count the cost. Whosoever of you that be taketh not up his cross and followeth me cannot be my disciple."* Those days are gone now!

The day of seeking the Lord is gone. Men make a profession today and they're preaching tomorrow. They make a profession today and they're teaching Sunday school tomorrow.

But that's not the way it was in God's Word. Our Lord said; now listen to me: *"Ye shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart, with all your heart."*

It's not seeking the right church and the right doctrine and the right baptism; it's seeking the Lord. Listen to the Word of God: *"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my disciple."*

Christ said, *"If any man come to me and hate not his mother and father, brother and sister, husband and wife, yea his own life also; he cannot be my disciple."* Count the cost, count the cost.

You say, "Preacher; it sounds like you are discouraging men from a profession of faith rather than encouraging men to faith in Christ." No, no; that's not true, that's not true at all. I am discouraging men from a careless, thoughtless, hurried, half-hearted profession of religion.

I'm calling upon men who really want to know God to seek the Lord. I'm telling you that this little careless, flippant, instant religion will leave you empty, as empty as those who preach it. Our Lord said; *"People compass the land and sea to make one proselyte for their religion. And after they've made him he's two-fold more the child of hell than they are."*

And these little instant religious professions and easy believism will leave you without God and without hope.

My friend; the Bible doesn't know anything about a, "doormat named Jesus" that you can shake the preachers hand and give some mental ascent to a few facts about Him and walk on Him the rest of your life.

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The Bible doesn't know anything about "a fire escape called Jesus." No sir! The Bible doesn't know anything about a Saviour who will be your Saviour from hell and not the Lord of your life. The Bible doesn't know anything about that kind of Jesus.

And I'm not discouraging people; I'm encouraging them. But I'm encouraging them to do what this man did, what our Lord said; "*Seek the Lord. Dig deep and lay that foundation on the rock, on Christ Jesus.*"

I am urging men who are building a home and a hope for eternity, a spiritual house; if you expect it to stand the trials of life, if you expect that religious profession of yours to stand the trials of sickness, sorrow, and suffering; if you expect that religious profession to stand the trial of satanic opposition and temptation; if you expect that religious profession to stand and hold and keep you at the time of death; if you expect that religious profession, that eternal hope, that refuge to keep you in the Day of Judgment; then I'm telling you to search the Scripture, to count the cost, to seek the Lord, to seek the foundation that God has given, that God has laid.

Now listen to the Scripture: "*Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord.*"

Paul, before he left those people at Ephesus he said, "*I commit you to God and the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, strengthen you, and establish you.*"

And that's what I'm saying to you who are listening to me today. I don't urge you to rush into a religious profession and rush into baptism and rush into membership in the church and rush into these things.

I'm telling you to stand back and look at God's Word and ask the Holy Spirit to convince you of sin, ask the spirit of the living God to show you your need, ask the Spirit of God to shut your mouth.

That's right; everybody whom God saves, the first thing He does is shut his mouth. Read that in **Romans chapter 3:19**: "*What the law saith it saith to them who are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty before God.*"

Ask God to show you what you are. Ask God to reveal Christ to you. Ask God to reveal Christ as your hope, and your Lord, and your Saviour. And to give you the will and to give you the desire and to give you the hunger and thirst to reach out, to lay hold on Christ, embrace Him, and receive Him, and bow to Him, own Him as Lord and Master, and walk with Him, and give you that grace which is sufficient for every trial.

I want you to look at a Scripture in **Isaiah 28:16**. Will you turn over there a moment? God says, "*Thus saith the Lord; behold, (and that gets your attention) behold I lay in Zion, (Zion is the church) I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone;*" this is a rock. That's what that man built his house on was a rock. And the Lord says; "*I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a*

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

precious corner stone, a sure foundation. And he that believeth will never be, will never make haste (never be ashamed)."

What is this stone? What is this foundation? What is this rock? What is this precious cornerstone? It's Christ. Jesus Christ is all to the Father and He's all to the sinner. And He's all in redemption.

Now my friend; there was a time when this world wasn't made. There was a time when that moon and sun and stars did not shine. There was a time when this world was not here, the valleys, the beautiful mountains of this beautiful state, and the valleys and the creeks and the rivers were not there.

Man, as a creature was unknown. If Christ is all; where was He then? Well the Scripture says, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God."* He said, *"Glorify me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."*

And then there was a time when this world was made, when God almighty by a miracle of His power put that sun out there to give light and life and strength and heat. And then there was a time when God put those stars each in its given place, following its given orbit.

There was a time when God built this world and raised the mountains and spread out the deserts and the valleys and planted the trees and the flowers and put man.

Where was Christ? If He's all; where was He then? *"All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made."* **Colossians** says, *"All things were created by Him and for Him."*

There was a time when sin came into this world. God's beautiful valley was visited by sin. Darkness fell upon the earth, darkness, death, and disease fell upon man. Oh, what a terrible day when gloom and satanic power and lies covered this world and changed the nature of the animals and brought blight and ruin to God's creation and death to God's man.

If Christ is all where was He then? Well I'll tell you where he was; He was the promise of redemption. He was the light to a dark world. He was the life to a dead world. For in that hour God announced redemption through the seed of the woman, **Genesis 3:15**.

He said to the serpent, *"I'll put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed, (Christ, the virgin-born Son). He'll crush your power. He'll destroy your government. He'll clean out your whole power."* That's right!

Well there was a time when this world had lasted for 4,000 years and religion was nothing but superstition, hypocrisy and idolatry. And it looked like nobody really knew God. If Christ is all; where was He then?

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He came down to this world in human form. He came to a manger to a young woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. And God announced, *“Peace on earth, good will toward men. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.”*

He was Lord in the manger and He was Lord on that cross and He’s Lord now at the right hand of the Father.

There’s a time coming when all men shall stand before God and be judged. The Scripture says, *“The books are going to be opened and the dead are going to be judged out of those things written in the books.”*

If Christ is all; where will He be then? **John 5:22** says: *“The Father judgeth no man. He hath committed all judgment to the Son.”* He’s the Judge. The Lamb is now the Lion. The Saviour is now the Judge.

Well there’s a time coming when this earth shall be no more. God’s going to make a new earth and a new heaven. Righteousness shall cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.

If Christ is all; where will He be then? I’ll tell you; God almighty said, *“That in all things He might have preeminence. For He hath given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee shall bow in heaven, in earth, and in hell: And every tongue shall confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

He’s the foundation. God said; *“I’ve laid in Zion from eternity past to eternity future. I have laid in Zion for a foundation, a stone, an immovable stone, and indestructible stone, and an immutable stone, and that stone is Christ.”*

And I’ll tell you this; now listen to me. I’m going to close with this; He said, *“It’s a tried stone.”* Now you folks that are trusting your feelings for salvation; *“Well, the reason I know I’m saved preacher, is I feel saved.”*

Well, you’ll have to wait until the Judgment to see if you feel saved enough. That’s right because you could just be, *“weighing the balances and found wanting.”* God’s going to try your profession. He’s going to try your foundation; that’s right.

They built their houses and then the storm came, the overflowing scourge of God’s wrath and tried those houses and one of them fell. That other one stood; it was founded on a rock.

And you say, *“Well I know I’m saved because I had a beautiful experience.”* Well, all right, now; so be it. You rest in that but that experience is going to be tried, tried by God’s holiness, tried by God’s white throne, and tried by God’s righteousness. It might not hold up.

But now this stone; God said, *“I lay in Zion a foundation,”* a stone that’s already been tried. That’s right; Christ has already been tried.

FOUNDED ON THE ROCK

MATTHEW 7:24-25 • HENRY T. MAHAN

First of all: He was tried by Satan! Satan took Him up on that mountain 40 days without food and tried Him and He did not fail.

Secondly: Then He was tried by the law! *“What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh; God sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh condemned sin in the flesh.”* Christ met the law and He obeyed it in every jot and tittle. He fulfilled all righteousness.

So, I don't have to worry about Satan. Christ has already been tried and I in Him. I don't have to worry about the law; I've already been tried in Christ and succeeded victoriously.

Thirdly: Then He was tried by sin! *“He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.”* So, I don't have to worry about sin.

Fourthly: Then He was tried by men! And Pilate said, *“I find no fault in Him.”*

Fifthly: And then He was tried by death! And death couldn't hold Him. He arose!

And then He was tried by God. *“My God why hast thou forsaken me?”* See that? He said, *“I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone that's already been tried. And he that believeth on Him will never be ashamed.”*

There are some folks who are going to say; *“I preached in your name,”* who are going to be ashamed that cast out devils and did many wonderful works.”

You're going to be ashamed. But those who believe on Christ will never be ashamed!