

The Rain Descended

Matthew 7:24-29

- Sometimes the world is rather black and white
- Not always, but often
- And in the case of today's text, we have two kinds of people
- They represent two kinds of people in the world
- Jesus calls them "a wise man" and "a foolish man"
- They are called this based on the choices they make
- Both are given the same instructions from Christ
- One believes and does what Jesus says, the other does not
- All who have heard Jesus' words can be put in one of these two categories
- The obedient and the disobedient
- And this passage of scripture tells us about the results

- We hear what happened when "The Rain Descended"
- As we spend some time in Matthew 7:24-29 today

- We're in a very well-known passage of scripture today
- It is essentially about our foundation of life
- Is our life built upon something strong and durable?
- Or something that is unsteady and easily undermined?

- There are songs about this passage
- The foundation materials mentioned may have become a bit cliché
- But the issues the passage brings up are actually quite serious
- When difficulties and hardships come, will our lives crumble or will we stand strong?

- The issues at hand here are not theoretical
- People build their lives upon something
- We all do
- And that which we build upon will either hold up or it won't

- Let's get into the passage...

Matthew 7:24

24 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:

- The person that hears Jesus' sayings...which sayings?
- We have to believe He is speaking comprehensively
- He is certainly not just talking about a few words or phrases
- He's talking about His entire message
- The message that some of those present heard in person
- And certainly the message of Him that is recorded for us in scripture

- But it's not just enough to hear them
- We must do them
- Embrace them, believe them, make them our foundation for life
- Because if we do, we will be compared to a wise man
- He is wise because He built his house upon rock

- The wise man's foundation is right
- Just as the obedient man's foundation is right
- Both are solid and secure and unshakeable

- The first thing we have to believe about Jesus is that He is the Savior
- The way the truth and the life - and that no man can come to the Father but by Him
- Because He died in our place and for our sin, was buried, and rose again the third day
- And then we must believe all that He taught and lived out in the world
- He must be our example and His words must be our guide

- When this is the case, we are on rock-solid ground
- We are prepared for whatever life may bring
- And it brings many thing...

Matthew 7:25

25 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.

- The wise man is not spared from rains and flood
- He still experiences the blowing of the wind
- But his house does not fall

- Through His relationship with Christ
- And His obedience to Christ's words
- He has prepared himself to endure
- Not because he is, in and of himself, any stronger or better than the foolish man
- But he has a better foundation
- The right foundation
- A foundation of solid rock

- The house may be weather-beaten when the storm has ended
- A few of the windows may have blown in
- The yard may be a mess
- But the house still stands

- Christ is our strength
- And the instruction that He gives in His word is sufficient to live in this world
- And to have victory
- And to have peace

- No doubt, things of immense difficulty will come

- But those with the right foundation need not fear
- There is another foundation
- Jesus describes that in our next verse...

Matthew 7:26

26 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:

- Some will hear and do not what Jesus says
- They will reject it
- They will reject Him
- Perhaps they will think they have a better way
- Perhaps they will hear someone else and build their lives on what that someone else says
- Or perhaps they will simply be careless, never giving their foundation a second thought
- They are like a foolish man
- Who also builds a house
- But builds it on a foundation that is not suitable
- That won't stand in trouble
- Whatever this foolish man is building upon won't seem like sand when he surveys it
- It will look just fine to him at that time
- He'll make his calculations
- And everything will add up
- Until the rains come
- And maybe this foolish man didn't expect the rain
- Even if he did, maybe he didn't expect the flood
- And perhaps he didn't foresee winds that were quite this severe
- Whatever the case, the foundation is not right
- And the foolish man's life is not ready for the storm...

Matthew 7:27

27 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.

- For the man who rejects Christ
- The man who hears the message of the gospel, but does not embrace it
- Destruction is his only end
- Because the rains and floods and winds of the world keep coming
- And only those with the right foundation will stand
- Jesus describes this as quite a black and white issue

- Accept Him and build upon the foundation of His word - this is wise
- Reject Him and build upon some other foundation (any other foundation) - this is foolish
- Your life will stand or will fall
- Your life will be a success or a failure
- You will have eternal life or eternal death
- Based upon your foundation

- Is He your foundation?
- Is His word the basis for your life choices?
- Are you His disciple?

- Because the rains and floods and winds are coming
- They may already be here
- Don't get your calculations wrong
- Trust what Jesus says here

- Listen to what the people around said on this day...

Matthew 7:28-29

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- He was speaking from authority
- Because He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords
- Above all
- The Savior of the world
- And He pleads with us to be wise, not foolish
- To trust Him, to follow Him

Christopher Harper, Take Note 2023