

12—The Wise and Foolish Man

Matthew 7:24-29



1. In Luke's account of the Sermon on the Mount, he quotes a very important question of Jesus before proceeding with the final illustration of the wise and foolish man. What is the question in Luke 6:46?

2. In Matthew's account, what must happen first before we can do anything (Matthew 7:24)? How does Romans 10:17 describe this process?

3. After the first step in the process, what must occur with what we have heard (Matthew 7:24)? What might we call this process? What will be the results according to James 1:21-25?

4. Jesus likens hearing + doing to building on a rock. What does it say about a person who builds on a firm vs. a sand foundation? How do the following Old Testament passages add to this illustration (Psalm 127:1; Proverbs 10:25)?

5. Is it easier to dig and build on rock or on sand? What might this indicate to us about the Christian way (cp. Matthew 7:13-14)?

6. It is one thing to say building on Jesus will help us through the storms. Yet, in what ways will living a life that is obedient to Jesus Christ actually help us endure the storms we will face in life?

7. Notice Jesus does not just speak of the ruin of villages or communities of houses, but one individual house. Does one lost soul matter to Jesus? Will we be judged on the basis of others or individually (Romans 14:12)?

8. What does a life built on the sand imply about us and our safety and security?

9. Go back through the Sermon on the Mount and note some of the attitudes and actions which will indicate we are still building religious sand castles with our souls (Matthew 5-7)?

10. How did the crowds react to this teaching of Jesus (Matthew 7:28-8:1)? What was the work of a "scribe" (see Ezra 7:6,12; Neh. 8:1; Matt. 15:1-6; 23:2-4)? How was this teaching of Jesus different than what the disciples were accustomed to hearing from the scribes?