

Sermon: **“Founded on the Rock” (Matthew 7:24-29)**

Date: **June 18, 2017**

Every building needs a sturdy foundation in order to endure strong winds and fierce storms. Without a firm foundation, a building would not stand firm in the midst of a powerful storm. Similarly, Jesus teaches us that we must build our lives upon a firm and strong foundation if we desire to endure the storms of life that inevitably come our way. The firm foundation that we as Christians must build our lives upon is Christ and His Word. There is no other foundation upon which we can build our lives that will enable us to stand strong during the storms of life. As we study Matthew 7:24-29 this week, we will learn the necessity of having our life and witness founded on complete obedience to Christ and His Word. We must hear the words of Christ and do them. There is no other way. You will stand strong amidst all adversity only when your life and witness is wisely built on the foundational authority of Christ and his Word.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:24-29 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a) Have you ever been asked the question, “How do you know that the Bible is true?” What are some ways in which we might answer this question? How would you answer this question?
 - b) If we were to ask God that question, how do you think he would answer it?
 - c) Read Matthew 7:21-23. How do these verses help us better understand verses 24-27.
 - d) Verse 29 says that Jesus taught as one who had authority. How can Jesus possibly speak his own words and say that they are authoritative? What are the implications of this for our lives?
 - e) Why does the world reject the authority of Christ? Why are we sometimes tempted to elevate other authorities (i.e. self) over Christ’s authority?
 - f) The wise man built his house on the rock (v. 24-25). How does this translate into the Christian life? What can we do to build our lives on the rock?
 - g) What are some of the types of ‘storms’ that we experience in our lives? How does building on the foundation of Christ and his Word help us stand firm in the midst of these storms?

- h) What do the two builders in verses 24-27 have in common with one another? What is the one key difference between the two of them?

- i) The main point of the sermon is this: You will stand strong amidst all adversity only when your life and witness is wisely built on the foundational authority of Christ and his Word. Do you believe this? Why or why not?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. A non-Christian family member or friend asks: “How do you know that the Bible is true?” What do you say and why? Defend your response biblically.

3. Practically speaking, what specific habits and practices have you found helpful toward building your life on the foundational authority of Christ and His Word?

4. Testify to a storm in your life when you’ve wisely done His Word and stood strong. How about a storm when you’ve foolishly not done His Word and fallen flat?

5. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How must Christ’s declaration of His having “all authority” impact our involvement in His Great Commission for His Church?

Accountability Question

Share at least one specific aspect of your life that’s not fully surrendered to the Lordship of Christ and pray that He’ll move your heart to obedience in this area.