

BUILDING TO WITHSTAND THE STORMS

Matt 7:24-27

INTRODUCTION

- A. There are many natural disasters: tornadoes, fires, hurricanes and such which impact the lives of many people
- B. Such disasters reveal much about contractors: some are unscrupulous; failing to build according to code, homes and buildings are destroyed
- C. Jesus made a parallel between storms and buildings at the end of His sermon as He sought to encourage people to act upon His sayings; contrasting the difference between those who were doers and not just listeners Matt 7:24-27
- D. What do the "houses" of the wise and foolish builders represent? What "storms" is Jesus talking about? How can we "build" so as to be able to withstand the storms?

DISCUSSION:

I. THE HOUSES REPRESENT OUR LIVES

- A. Each of us is building a "life" that will eventually face the inevitable changes of life; the many ups and downs that come our way
- B. We are building these "lives" upon a foundation
 1. The foundation is whatever teaching, doctrine, or philosophy to which we subscribe
 2. It may be a philosophy or doctrine adopted from others, or developed ourselves
- C. We cannot escape the fact that we are "builders." The question is whether we will be wise or foolish builders. The tests that will determine are called "storms"

II. STORMS ARE THINGS WHICH THREATEN OUR WELL-BEING

- A. May involve literal storms such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods
 1. May take away all we own, perhaps even our loved ones
 2. How we respond to such tragedies will reveal the quality of our "building". Will we be emotionally devastated? Will we be able to stand strong, willing to continue on without despair?
- B. May also involve figurative storms such as illness, loss of loved ones, financial setbacks
 1. Which may take away our health, family, possessions
 2. How we respond to such tragedies will reveal the quality of our "building". Will we be emotionally devastated? Will we be able to stand strong, willing to continue on without despair?
- C. Then there is the final "storm" of life Heb 9:27; Rom 2:4-6
 1. Will be truest test of our "building" (character) 2Cor 5:10-11
 2. The Lord will describe the kind of "builder" (or servant) we have been Matt 25:21, 26
- D. The longer we live, the more "storms" we are likely to face; and there is the final "storm" that none can escape!

III. OBEYING JESUS IS THE KEY TO WITHSTANDING THE STORMS

- A. Being a "hearer" only is not sufficient Matt 7:26-27
 1. One is deceiving only themselves Jas 1:22-24
 2. Like the unscrupulous contractor, the storm will reveal the true quality of one's character Num 32:23
- B. We must "do" what Jesus says Matt 7:24-25
 1. Their lives are built upon the "rock" (a solid foundation)
 2. It is the doer who is blessed in what he does Jas 1:25
- C. The sayings of Jesus help us withstand the storms
 1. Qualities to guide our lives Matt 5:1-12
 2. Our influence on others Matt 5:13-16
 3. Our relationship to the Law Matt 5:17-19
 4. Righteousness surpassing scribes and Pharisees Matt 5:20-48
 5. Righteousness well-pleasing to God Matt 6:1-18
 6. Where to lay up treasure that cannot rust or be stolen Matt 6:19-21
 7. Free from materialism and anxiety Matt 6:22-29
 8. Necessities of life are provided for and what to seek first Matt 6:30-34
 9. Will not be judged by inconsistent standard Matt 7:1-6
 10. Receive good gifts God gives to His children Matt 7:7-11
 11. Fulfill the Law and the Prophets Matt 7:12
 12. Stay on straight and narrow way Matt 7:13-14
 13. Avoid being misled by false prophets Matt 7:15-20
 14. Who will enter the kingdom of heaven Matt 7:21-23

CONCLUSION

- A. This is a life that can truly withstand the storms, whether it be the literal or figurative storms of every day life, or the storm of the Day of Wrath and Judgment that is yet to come
- B. What kind of foundation are you building your house (life) on?
- C. Heed what Jesus said, and your life will be solid, but be listeners only, and your life will be as shaky as sand!
- D. Just as Jesus is the Rock-solid foundation of the church (1Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20; 1Pet 2:4-6), so let Him be the Rock-solid foundation of your life