

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Matthew 7:24-29

We must give careful attention to the foundations upon which we build!

I. A FOUNDATION FOR ADVERSITY (24-27)

A. CONSIDER JESUS' DECLARATIONS > "These sayings of mine" (24a, 26a)

1. What did they hear?
2. They heard Jesus speak about:
 - a. Righteousness (chapter 5)
 - b. Religion (chapter 6)
 - c. Relationships (chapter 7)

B. CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS

1. Will you hear?
 - a. Both have plans, they are doing something
 - b. In reality, no one really does nothing
2. The Wise man
 - a. He hears and does (because wisdom calls for action - James 1:22)
 - b. He builds on stone
 - He thinks ahead of potential peril and planned accordingly
3. The Foolish Man
 - a. He hears but does not do
 - Consider examples in Acts 27:27-28 and Proverbs 1:7
 - b. He builds on sand - Read Proverbs 18:2

C. CONSIDER THE OBSERVER'S DISCERNMENT

1. The wise and foolish can be known by their fruits - See v. 16
2. The principle of judgment based on deeds is now applied to everyone

D. CONSIDER THE STORMY DEVASTATION

1. Reality:
 - a. Storms will come - James 1:2
 - b. Storms are sudden - There is no time to do additional preparation
 - See Matt. 24:42-44 and I Thess. 5:2
 - c. Storms are hard to predict
2. Result
 - a. For the builder on stone: His building stood
 - b. For the builder on sand
 - 1) His house fell
 - 2) The fall was great - See Job 8:13-15 and 27:8-10

Over please >

3. Record
 - Where you start is important > Where you start will affect how you end
4. Recognize
 - Jesus' words are a gracious warning providing His listeners with the reality of what's coming and how to know if they're ready
5. Review: How will the storms affect you?

II. A FOUNDATION OF AUTHORITY (28-29)

A. THE CROWD'S REACTION (28)

1. They Marveled
 - Christ's courage and conviction were vividly displayed
2. They Mused
 - a. They are amazed or spellbound
 - b. They thought this sounded new, but only because years of tradition had distorted the truth of God's Word
 - c. Jesus made them think by forcing them to decide who they would listen to
 - d. Jesus had focused on things that really mattered
 - e. Jesus provided many examples and used vivid illustrations

B. THE CONTRAST REVEALED (29)

1. Jesus' Teaching - Authorized
 - "but I say ..." > A self-authenticating teacher
2. Scribe's Teaching - Academic

C. The QUESTION REVEALED

- Do we stand on the teachings of Christ or the traditions of man?

CONCLUSION:

WHAT IS OUR FOUNDATION ? > Will we stand on Christ alone?

1. Will it stand amid adversity?
2. Will it provide true authority?

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO JESUS ?

1. Do we hear and heed?
2. Do we accept His teachings or man's traditions?

OUR DECISIONS HAVE LIFE THREATENING IMPLICATIONS!