

## Walking with Jesus through the Eyes of Matthew

### “On the Solid Rock”

Matthew 7:24-29

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind  
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

**Introduction:** When we spoke last week we talked about two gates one that leads to destruction it was broad we described it as following the Christian crowd verse following Christ. The other gate leads to life it is narrow and nothing can fit through it except Christ and it the entrance to a life for Christ.

- A. We left off with this question: Is your life in Christ or are you just living the Christian lifestyle?
  1. Now the tell of the two gates is more about how propose to come into a relationship with Christ now this morning Jesus closes out His sermon on the Mount with this illustration about how are we building our life.
- And again there are two ways and they come back to that same question are you building your life on Christ or are you building life on a Christian lifestyle and there is a difference!
  - Just recently I read a post that a young lady had written that she had once slipped up that she had been saying her prayers and listening to nothing but Christian radio, going to church and told her self she wasn't going to fall away again but here she was back in the same old place questioning, doubting blah blah blah but then she was inspired again because she heard a couple songs on the radio.
- No listen church I am not say that this young lady didn't just have a down time we all have them but our lives should not be a roller coaster emotionally maybe but not spiritually.

- God is the same yesterday, today and forevermore if He took care of you yesterday then He will take care of you today and if today then tomorrow!
- We don't have to ride a spiritual roller coaster if we build our lives on a firm foundation that does not collapse every time the wind blows!

**Transition:** Now in the text this morning there are a couple key words to make sure we see they are Word and Act there are others and we will see them to but I want you to put those in your mind sometimes those get missed.

A. First I want you to look closely at first 25

- **25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.**

Matthew 7:25

- Notice Jesus does not say if a storm comes, and He doesn't say if it rains a little He says when the House gets slam.
- Church there are to be times when our life is going to get slam and if we are not on a firm foundation we are going to get destroyed!

I. **Build Your Life On The Word of Life** verse 24

A. The first part of building a life that will stand the test of the storm is to hear, read, study know the words of God!

- **"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine"** Matthew 7:24a
  1. Church we need the Word of God it is essential in building a life that is strong and powerful.
  2. The Word of God is our protection against our enemies!
    - It is our instruction book on how to live!
- **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** 2 Timothy 3:16
  - It teaches us who God is and who we are in relation to God ...
  - It warns us ...
  - It Corrects us ...

- It trains us in what is right ...
- How are we claiming to be Living for Christ and we don't know how because we never hear the Word of God.
- Which brings up that nagging question again are we Christ followers or are we just following the Christian lifestyle?
  - B. Let's go back to the storms for a moment Jesus says we are going to get slammed!
    - 1. And we are going to get slammed you may just be coming out of a storm just going in but you are going to get slammed at some point but if we are in Christ you will stand!
  - C. But it is more than just hearing the Word.
    - 1. Jesus says whoever hears my words and acts up on them is like a wise builder!
      - Now I know that I take a pretty hard line on some of the more popular mega churches and preaching styles out there and maybe you get tired of hearing it maybe that is why our attendance is down.
- But I challenge you to see how much of God's Word is being fed to these 1000's of people are we being so then how are folks going to know how to live for Christ if no one is teaching or preaching the Word of God?
  - = Here are some quotes from some of the pastors of some of the largest church in the United States.
    - Great moves of God are usually preceded by simple acts of obedience. S. F.
    - Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is going to determine how you're going to live your life. J. O.
    - 80% of people's problems are about how they feel about themselves." J. M.
- There are lots more but why this is relevant to the message this morning is because it breaks my heart to see people not getting the foundation they need to build their lives on and when life slams them they have nothing to hold on to.
  - Now let me get back to the text before I become guilty of the same thing.

2. It is one thing to hear the Word of God and then there is taking action on the Word of God and applying it to your life!

- Building on the foundation is the difference in living for Christ and just living the Christian lifestyle.
  - The difference in Having your morning devotion and having your morning devotions change the way you handle your day
  - Going to Church on Sunday and spending time with your friends and feeling pep up about yourself and going to church on Sundays and having your life changed having fellowshiped with a family of believers and having been fed from God's Word equipped to walk with Him.
- You cannot build your life on emotional inspiration!
- You see a wise man builds His house upon the Rock not just any Rock
- The rock that we can build our life on is Christ list to what Paul wrote to the Corinthians
  - **For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.** 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
- D. Oh Church look at verse 25 again the storms are coming:
  - **And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.** Matthew 7:25
    - Your life is going to get flooded ...
    - Your life is going to get blown ...
    - Your life is going to get slammed with stuff you can't even imagine ...

= Can I testify for a minute?

- In Early 2015 I was diagnosed with Parkinson's
- A little later in 2015 I lost my best buddy my Dad expectantly
- A year later I lost my Father in law who was like a second father to me
- I started having serious problems with my son drugs and problems with the law and by Oct of 2016 he had run away and was missing for 5 months
- At the same time there was some folks whom I love dearly had left the church to go somewhere else.
- I couldn't sleep I was diagnosis with other medical problems
- This list is longer but you get the point.

■ I GOT SLAMMED!

- But I did not Fall, not just because I knew Jesus loved me but I never questioned why only what do you want me to do because His Word says:

- **And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** Romans 8:28

- Because His Word says:

- **4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** 1 John 4:4

- Because His Word says:

- **5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"** Hebrews 13:5

- I am not saying this because I want your sympathy I am saying this because your next if you haven't been already at some point your world is going to get rocked!

- What kind of foundation is you spiritual house build on?

- Do you know that when I was little we had a little plastic church with a slot in top of it and every Sunday morning our parents would give us some change to put in it for offering to God and my sweet Sunday School teacher if we did have any she would give us some you know what was happening she was building us on the rock to this day I feel bad when I rob God. You say huh?
- "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8
- I think where Nick comes from they don't have sports practices on Wednesday nights so folks can go to church.
  - We have changed our service times so that families can have more time on Sunday's to spend with their families and our attendance has actually dropped what are we building our lives on?
- Are we Christ followers or are following the contemporary Christian Lifestyle?

**Transition: There are two distinct foundation to build your life on:**

1. The Rock the Rock is Jesus He will not move He will not change based on circumstance or anything else no storm is too big for Him and there is Goliath he can't defeat!
2. The then there is the sand here is the things about sand it moves it never stays the same it is always evolving.

## **II. It is Foolish to Play with the Sand Verse 26-27**

- A. Now I want you to notice that these folks heard the same words the difference is what they did with them.
  1. You go to the doctor and the doctor says you have a sprang ankle go home ice it up keep it elevated for a week you will be good to go.
    - You go home take off the ace bandage go about what you want to do go back in a week tell the doc may ankle is worse than it was a week ago.

- Really?

■ Did you do what I told you to do no, then what did you expect!

B. Jesus is telling them that if they do not building there life on His words then the storms are coming at there is going to be problems!

- James writes: **But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.** James 1:22

1. We are just fooling ourselves if we show up for church, or Bible Study or do our devotions and hear God's Word and then go about our merry way and experience any change in our lives.

2. We delude ourselves if find ourselves trying to find a place to go to church that does not teach deep enough that it challenges us to live closer to God in all aspects of my life.

- **And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly.** 1 Corinthians 3:1-3a

- Paul wanted to give the Corinthians meat of the Word but they were still too caught up in the things of the flesh!!!

C. Then this Happened:

- **The rain fell, and the [a]floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”** Matthew 7:27

1. The same thing that happened to the house that was built on the rock it got slammed by a storm

➤ I am telling you everyone is going to face them, they are going to happen:

- Cancer doesn't care how much money you have
- Family issue don't care how good and kind you are
- The economy doesn't care how well you can do your job

- The storm is coming for you it may be here you might be right in the middle of it now I don't know that you can go some places that will tell you they know someone here is going through a specific something that's not Bible if it is show me.
  - But I know it a group this size there is a good chance someone is in a storm!
- And your Christian lifestyle isn't going to help you one little bit you have to get on the Rock!
  2. Have you ever seen the movie twister where they take a belt and strap themselves to a pipe in the ground while everything else around them gets blown away?
    - Church, Our anchor will hold!

**Closing: Broad is the gate that leads to destruction, narrow is the way that leads to life!**

- A. A Life built on shifting sand will not stand not only will it fall but Jesus said great is its fall!
- B. But a Life built on Christ, built on the Word of God will stand:
  - I have seen Marriages that were just about finished and when we looked at them from a Biblical perspective God saved them.
  - I glimpses here and there of fathers who love the sons and daughters enough to make prayer, God's Word, coming to church, important building their lives on a firm foundation of Christ as opposed to just fitting it in.
  - I see a remnant of Churches still teaching the truths of God's Word without compromise or apology in the midst of a very difficult time.

= I will leave you with that single question "Are You a Christian or do are just following the Christian Lifestyle?" if you don't know the difference I would invite you to come talk to Pastor Nick or myself after the service.