

SERMON: A WISE BUILDER

Matthew 7:24-27

(24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. (26) And everyone that heareth these saying of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: (27) and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall.

Introduction

Jesus stated these words as He concluded what we have traditionally called the Sermon on the Mount. He was saying that information and education without proper application lead to frustration and even devastation. Jesus used this short parable to let them know that they were to do more than just listen to His eloquent words. They were admonished to heed His words and put them into action. To do so was wise; conversely, to do otherwise was to be foolish and would lead to disaster.

Jesus used an example of two builders. One was a wise, careful builder; the other was a foolish, careless builder. When the rainy season came, the house built by the wise man stood firmly, while the house built by the foolish man did not survive the rain and the floods.

The parable has many spiritual and practical applications. We are all building things. We are building our lives, our families, our friendships, our careers, our businesses, just to name a few. Wisdom must be used if we are to be successful for the long-haul. We must build spiritual houses that will last for eternity.

Jesus talked a lot about good and evil. He also taught a lot about the contrast between wisdom and foolishness. We must not only be morally good, we must also use the wisdom that only God provides. I repeat: There is wisdom that only God can provide. There is artificial intelligence, but no artificial wisdom. If there were artificial wisdom, it would not come close to God's divine wisdom.

Let us look at five issues a wise builder must address. I know each of us wish to continue as wise life builders.

Exposition

1. Prayerfully Consider What You Build.

(Noah Built The Ark. Solomon Built The Temple. Nehemiah Rebuilt The Walls Of Jerusalem. What Are You And I Building?)

2. Prayerfully Consider Why You Build.

(The Tower Of Babel Was Built For The Wrong Reason.
Genesis 11:1-9.)
(We Must Do The Right Thing For The Right Reason.)

3. Prayerfully Consider When You Build.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1.)

4. Prayerfully Consider How you build

(Get The Right Materials. Get The Right People. Follow Design Specifications And Building Codes. There Are Spiritual Specifications.)
(Deuteronomy 22:8; 1st Kings 6:7.)

5. Prayerfully Consider Where you Build.

(Build On Firm Foundation-Not On Sinking Sand.)
(If The Foundation Is Not Stable, Nothing Else Matters.)
(Luke 6:47-49.)

Closing Statements

Remember, we are building all the time. Will what we are building withstand the monsoons of life? We must comply with the spiritual building codes. Make no mistake: the storms of life will test what we have built.

I will close with excerpts of the lyrics of a spiritual.
"Done built me a house on the True Foundation.
Done built me a house on the Rock of Salvation.
It'll stand the storm-won't wash away!
After judgement day,
I'll have somewhere to stay!"

When you heard me praying,
I was building me a house.

When you heard me singing,
I was building me a house.

When you saw me serving,
I was building me a house.

When you heard me shouting,
I was building me a house.

Done built me a house on the True Foundation.
Done built me a house on the Rock of Salvation.
It'll stand the storm- won't wash away!
After judgement day,
I'll have somewhere to stay!"

Related Scriptures

Isaiah 28:16; 1st Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19-20; 1st Peter 2:6

End Note

It was a common thing in this culture to construct temporary, “make-shift” structures on sandy soil. These structures were similar to the structures homeless people construct today. The sandy terrain was naturally flat and lended itself easily to the insertion of poles, sticks, or staves. It was also common to pitch tents in the sandy soil for the same reason. Remember, Apostle was a tent maker. Many of the people were nomads and just about everyone traveled several times a year to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast days. On their way they would set up temporary structures or pitched tents to get a good night’s rest. They would always make camp in the pliable sandy soil. Sometimes it was near a river or wadi; this ensured an adequate water supply. Elijah probably built one of these temporary structures when he hid from Jezebel by the brook called Cherith. John the Baptist probably built one near the Jordan River. The man who built his house on the sand was foolish because he built a permanent structure on terrain that was suitable only for temporary structures. All of the listeners probably thought: “Nobody in his right mind would do that; his elevator must not go all the way to the top. There must be a few cards missing in his deck.” This was the exact response Jesus wanted. He wanted them to see how foolish and detrimental it was to hear His divine, logical truth and not put it into action.

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