

Life on the Rock
Matthew 7:24-29

Introduction:

If Jesus has taught us anything in the Sermon on the Mount it is this; that there is no such thing as middle of the road Christianity.

Revelation 3:14-16 *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ¹⁵ 'I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.*

James Montgomery Boice:

"One of the worst things that can be taught in religion is that all roads eventually lead to heaven. It is not true, of course, which is bad enough in itself, for all lies are harmful. But in addition to being false, the idea that all ways and all foundations are equally good is damnable since the one who follows any way other than that laid out by Jesus Christ will perish in the life to come."

I. The Assessment Of The Ones Who Listened

Matthew 7:24a *Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them...*

Martin Luther:

"Real faith can no more fail to produce good works than the sun can refuse to shine."

Pastor Tim:

"The mark of true discipleship is not simply hearing and believing, but believing and doing. The true disciples of Jesus Christ, the only true converts of the gospel, are those who are doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."

A. The Wise Builder

1. Notice His Sweat

Matthew 7:24 *which built his house upon a rock...*

Luke 6:48 *He is like a man which built a house, and dug deep, and laid the foundation on a rock...*

John MacArthur:

"Rock is the Greek word 'Petra' it does not refer to a stone or even a boulder, but a great expanse of bedrock. It is solid, stable, and unmovable."

John Butler:

"The **house** built on the **rock** is the life of obedience, the life Jesus has been explaining throughout the Sermon on the Mount. It is the life that has a scriptural view of itself, as described in the Beatitudes. It is the life that has a scriptural view of the world, and sees

itself as God's means for preserving and enlightening the world while not being a part of it. It is the life that has the divine view of Scripture and that determines not to alter God's Word in the slightest degree. It is a life that is concerned about internal righteousness rather than external form."

Gordon McDonald:

"The most important part of any life is what you never see. That's why so many people today are falling...their reputation is taking them farther than their character can keep them."

2. Notice His Shrewdness

Matthew 7:24 *I will liken him unto a wise man...*

3. Notice His Surprise

Matthew 7:25 *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.*

David Jeremiah:

"Everyone has at least one train wreck in their life; pray that yours will come early so that you have time enough to recover."

Pastor Tim:

"God does not draw a circle around His people's house's, farms, and property so that there's does not get damaged. God does not draw a circle around our children so that none of them ever get sick. Draw does not make our parents exempt from death either. But I have discovered that you do not know what type of foundation you really have until the storm comes."

B. The Foolish Builder

1. Notice His Display

Matthew 7:26c *which built his house upon the sand...*

Pastor Tim:

"To build our life and house on sand is to follow the deception of Satan, which causes a person to believe he is saved when he is not."

Arthur Pink:

The person who builds his life upon the sand is like the person who brings his body to the house of prayer, but not their souls. They worship with their mouths, but not in spirit and in truth. They are sticklers for immersion or early morning communion, yet take no thought about keeping their hearts with all diligence. They boast of their orthodoxy; but disregard the precepts of Christ. Multitudes of professing Christians abstain from external acts of violence, yet hesitate not to rob their neighbors of a good name by spreading evil reports against them. They contribute regularly to the "pastor's salary," but shrink not from misrepresenting their goods and cheating their customers,

persuading themselves that "business is business." They have more regard for the laws of man than those of God, for His fear is not before their eyes.

Charles Spurgeon:

"Want of depth, want of sincerity, want of zeal in religion—this is the want of our times. Want of an eye to God in religion, lack of sincere dealing with one's soul, neglect of using the lancet with our hearts, neglect of the search warrant which God gives out against sin, carelessness concerning living upon Christ; much reading about Him, much talking about Him, but too little feeding on His flesh and drinking of His blood—these are the causes of a tottering profession and a baseless hope."

2. Notice His Deception

Matthew 7:26b *shall be likened unto a foolish man...*

II. The Assessment By The Ones Who Listened

A. The Time of The Assessment

Matthew 7:28a *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings...*

Proverbs 18:13 *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

B. The Trauma In The Assessment

Matthew 7:28b *the people were astonished at his doctrine.*

Pastor Tim:

"Many people think that if they have an emotional experience at church, that God has really spoken to their hearts. But the emotional experience is worthless without future application."

John Butler:

"Preachers and churches should be cautious in evaluating the response of people to their sermons. Many times when people strongly react emotionally it is often mistaken for a great moving of the spirit of God upon their hearts, when in fact it is nothing of the sort. It is not the emotional reaction after the sermon that matters but the application of the sermon that matters."

C. The Teaching In The Assessment

Matthew 7:28 *"doctrine"*

Matthew 7:27 *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 of it.*