

*Jesus likens the person who hears but ignores Him to someone who builds a house on the sand. Their foundation doesn't withstand those storms. What are the things in life we might depend on other than Jesus, that ultimately will let us crumble when the storms of life hit us? Have you witnessed anyone who built on the sand and crumbled in a storm?*

*Matthew 7:28-29 NLT - 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught with real authority--quite unlike their teachers of religious law.*

Jesus was doing more than giving good advice. He spoke with authority because He was more than just another teacher. This was God in the flesh, the Creator, telling His creation how to live. He is the authority on all aspects of our lives, there is none better upon which to stand.

### **WRAP-UP**

We all will build our lives on something. It might be our wealth, our intellect, our relationships, or our careers. Or we could trust Jesus. If we are wise, we will build on the solid rock foundation of Jesus so that we can stand against the storms of our lives. But hearing His words alone is not enough, we must put them into practice.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. - Matthew 7:24 NLT*

### **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

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*Challenge – Look for one thing this week that you can do to put Jesus teaching into practice.*

## **Parable of the House built on the Rock- Storm Warnings**

Storyteller #4

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this week's parable Jesus issues a storm warning. He tells us that there will be storms in our lives and He tells us there are two ways to face them- wisely or foolishly. We would rather have Him tell us that we can avoid the storms in life altogether. But that's not what He says. Jesus uses the parable of a house built on either a firm foundation or a shaky one. The wise man builds on something that will withstand those storms, and the foolish man doesn't. Let's consider this parable and prepare ourselves for those storms.

### **Ice Breaker**

Describe the worst storm you've experienced.

### **Key Passage**

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.*  
- Matthew 7:24-27 NLT

### **STUDY QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Hear + Do = Wisdom**

Jesus begins this parable with the takeaway – “Hear my words and act on them.” Very simple instructions, but somehow, we manage to miss the mark. Why is that? First, let's consider who He is addressing. Jesus says that this applies to anyone and everyone who listens to His teaching. But are we listening?

*To listen to something we need to dial down the other noises that compete for our attention. What would you say are the competing sources of “noise” that might drown out Jesus’ words? What can be done to quiet those other sources and really hear the words of Jesus?*

The second half of Jesus’ instructions are to act on His teaching. Maybe you had bad experiences in the past with teachers telling you to follow the rules. It helps us to look at what should motivate us to act on Jesus’ teaching and follow His commandments.

*Based on the verses below, how would you summarize the reason Jesus wants us to obey his commandments and act on His words? How does this influence your desire to follow His teaching?*

*John 14:15 NLT - 15 "If you love me, obey my commandments.  
John 15:10, 14 NLT - 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ... 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.*

We aren’t following Jesus’ teaching to stay out of trouble or earn His favor. He is teaching us how to live fully alive. But it won’t do us any good if we don’t act on it.

## **2. The Wise Builder**

Now that Jesus has told us what we need to do, He tells a parable to explain the consequences of either following through or not on His teaching.

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. - Matthew 7:24 NLT*

*Matthew 21:42 NLT - 42 Then Jesus asked them, "Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures? 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing, and it is wonderful to see.'*

*1 Corinthians 3:11 NLT - 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have--Jesus Christ.*

*Psalms 92:15 NLT - 15 They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"*

Practicing what Jesus taught is how we show wisdom. Being wise means being sensible and intelligent. He likens that to building our house on a solid rock foundation. We see from many scriptures that Jesus is referred to as the rock and foundation. But what is our house? It is the place we dwell, where we live our lives and spend our time. That is what we are to build on the foundation of Jesus and His teaching.

*What are some of the teachings of Jesus that guide you in how you behave in your family life, in your business dealings, in your relationships with others? What are the rhythms and practices that help keep you aligned with Jesus’s teachings on a daily basis?*

In verse 25 Jesus tells us what we can expect when we build on the foundation of Jesus’ teaching.

*25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock*

There will be storms in your life! You have probably already experienced some. These are the things that crash into our lives and batter us and expose our foundation.

*What have been some of the storms in your life? What did that reveal about the foundation of your faith? Did this result in any changes in your life and your relationship with God?*

## **3. The Foolish Builder**

*26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.*

The foolish builder is not that far removed from the wise one. It isn’t the one who refuses to listen to Jesus (although that would be foolish too.) In fact, it sounds a lot like many of us. It is the one who hears what Jesus says but doesn’t do anything about it. Maybe he agrees that Jesus’ teaching is good and right. But if he doesn’t put it into practice, it does him no good.