

The House

Matthew 7:24-27

I have said many times over the years that I am not a carpenter. There are some projects that I would/could take on without much apprehension as far as my talents go. I've built doors for barns and dog lots and I've hung drywall and fixed decking and replaced lap siding and simple things like that. But building a house is a far cry from the minor projects that I have done on my own. As Jesus concludes His Sermon on the Mount just outside of Capernaum, He is telling everyone there that **all of us** are 'builders' when it comes to our own house of faith. The house that he/she builds is their own soul and the salvation of it and within that building comes the foundation on which that house will be constructed. In the secular world, I can only buy the house that I can afford and that the bank will loan me money for. But in the spiritual sense of home building, I build the home of my choice, and so do you. It can be as big as I want, or it can be as small as I allow. I have said many times that one of the most widely asked prayer requests from believers is that they have a closer walk with the Lord Jesus. I have said just as many times that decision is entirely up to you and is literally a request that can be answered solely by the one who asked it. You are the builder. You decide how big your house of faith will be. You decide how ornate it will be. You decide what will be brought into it yourself, and what you will allow others to bring into it when they come. **You decide on just how near to or how far away from** the Throne of Grace that it will be built. You are the builder. Jesus is simply telling you to be wise in and how you build. He paid the down payment and for the right for you to build your house of faith when He shed His blood for you on the cross. Nothing or no one is preventing you from building your house. The only one who can stop you...is you. Your house will be constructed on a foundation of rock or a foundation of sand. Your house, your foundation, your faith, and it's your choice.

I. THE WISE BUILDER

Vss. 24-25

(a) **A Home Amongst the Ruin**: I'm sure that to some who were hearing this message by Jesus were thinking, "How can I build this house amongst the ruins of what my eyes see?"

- This isn't Jerusalem...this is Capernaum
- This isn't Southern Judea...this is Northern Galilee
- These aren't the glory days of David or Solomon...these are the days of Caesar, of Rome and foreign occupation

1. But for others, their minds were turned back to a time in Jewish history 475 years ago. The Book of Nehemiah is all about taking a house that is seen as a 'reproach' (disgrace) and the Lord transforming it into a work of beauty and grace.

Nehemiah 2:18 *Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, **Let us rise up and build.** So they strengthened their hands for this good work.*

a. Nehemiah didn't focus on the burned gates or torn down walls of Jerusalem's past. He refocused upon the hands that would/could rise up and rebuild a city for the present and future...the City of God.

b. You are the peculiar, chosen household of faith, the Church of Jesus Christ. You are the Temple of the Holy Ghost. Every one of you who are saved have been called out of a great darkness and into the wonderful light of life (1 Peter 2:9). Your past is the past and that old house no longer stands. This is the glorious theme of the Church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament age of grace.

1) If we/you aren't careful, Satan will have you looking at the ruins of your past life and focused upon what you were before Christ entered the picture.

2) Jesus said, "I Am the Rock, and I challenge My sheep to build their house of faith upon Me." This is a call for now and in the future.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

a) In Corinth they were saying, "My foundation is Paul" or "My foundation is Apollos" or "My foundation is Peter". Nope. Paul said that if you are going to be a wise master builder, you had better be building your house of faith on Jesus Christ!

(1) Why? It's because of what's coming!

(b) **A Home Amidst the Storm**: These are the words of Christ and not mine, “A storm is brewing, and it is on its way.” Look at the coming storm and how Jesus described it.

- The rain descended, and the **floods** (Gr. *Potomas*; running water, current) came.
- The winds blew (from the four corners of the earth and howled)
- They beat upon (violently rushed upon) YOUR house

1. But the house didn't fall! Why? It was founded upon the Rock!

a. I believe one of the greatest sins for a believer is to forget just Who our Rock, Jesus Christ, is. At this point in Jesus ministry, even His own disciples didn't know Who He was and what He was capable of! You and I know; therefore, we are without any excuse.

- He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning, and the End
- He is the Great I Am, Emmanuel Himself, walking and living amongst the human beings that He Himself created in His Own Image (John 1:1-4). We are “Image Bearers”!
- He is the One Who commanded the winds and the waves to be still with just 3 words...and they were (Mark 4:39)
- He is the One Who walked upon the waters in the midst of a storm (Matthew 14:24-27) and said, “*Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid.*”

b. One unknown author wrote this quote, “Jesus is no security against life's storms, but He is perfect security in them.” Why? It is because, like the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ does not move...He does not budge.

Christian author Randy Smith said in his 2013 sermon ‘*Providentially Secure*’, “With our compass pointed north, we forge forward in the storms of life knowing that God is sovereign over all the situations that we encounter. And we as His children have that special comfort that He is working all things together for our good. We might not have asked for it. Odds are on the surface we don't like it either. But deep down inside, we cling to the Lord by faith, trusting His invisible hand that is always wise and kind to fulfill His good purposes. That's why Christians and Christians can obey the command from 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to “*give thanks...in everything...for this is God's will for [us] in Christ Jesus.*”

II. THE FOOLISH BUILDER

Vss. 26-27

(a) **My Dream Home**: I've always wanted to build a house in the mountains. Having a home on the side of a mountain and overlooking a valley is a picture that I just don't believe that I would ever tire of. The fluorescent and pastel colors of spring, the lush, deep green of summer, the earthy colors of red, yellow and orange in the fall and the pure white of snowfall in winter would make up the masterpiece that I would see every day. That is my dream home.

1. Religion can be all about just two things; hearing or doing. Over the years I have talked to plenty of people who hear about Christ, talk about Christ, but then never do anything about Christ. Their dream house of faith is like my dream house in the mountains because it is just a picture in my mind. I'll talk about it, but I'm not currently building it. That is what makes it a 'dream home'; it isn't real. At this point it is fantasy.

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

a. Moses wrote in the Mosaic Law that the hands of men will be quick to build their own gods of wood or stone that cannot hear or cannot see or cannot speak and cannot smell and these works of human hands are an abomination before the Lord.

b. How much more of an abomination in the eyes of the Father that sent to us a Redeemer, is the house of the dreamer that is wholly built upon the sands of the mind? In other words, their faith is no more than fantasy. The foolish man built his house on sand...

- ...and the rains fell, and the floods came
- ...and the winds blew and beat violently upon his fantasy
- ...and it fell...and great (Gr. *Megas*) was the fall of it

Conclusion: No commitment, no sacrifice, no expectation, or the only expectation is that someone else is responsible for your faith are all houses built on sand. When cultural morality is more important than Biblical morality, when society's influence on your faith is more desirable than Christ's influence on your faith, when cultural revolution is more important than revival, your house is built on sand.