

**Study Notes: Matthew 7:24-29**  
**November 10, 2024: “Build on a Firm Foundation”**  
**Prepared by Reverend Robert W. Rice**  
**Pastor, Muncy Baptist Church**

***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”***

- Once again, Jesus presented two choices for His hearers to make. They would either hear and obey His words, or they would choose to ignore them. This is the choice of trusting Jesus, putting His words into practice involves putting total trust in Him and Him alone.
  - The Faithlife Study Bible notes that simply hearing the words of Jesus is not enough, Jesus demands action. James 1:22-25 reiterates this teaching.
  - The New American Commentary explains, “We must build a solid foundation that combines authentic commitment to Christ with persevering obedience.”
- Jesus told a parable to illustrate this choice, comparing the choice to building a house. The wise builder chose a rock as a firm foundation for his house. This may be an illusion to God Himself who is described as “the Rock” in Psalm 18:2. The foolish builder chose to build on sand and loose ground.
- Both the wise and foolish builders experienced the storm. Indeed, no one is immune to the trials and challenges of life; however, faith in Jesus and putting His words into practice provides a shelter and allows someone to survive these storms.
  - The description of the storm would have been familiar to Jesus’ hearers, as a severe and terrible occurrence. Living in an arid climate, they were no strangers to rapid flash flooding that could wash away the ground and foundation of homes.
  - The Expositors’ Bible Commentary gives further insight on the wise and foolish in this parable, “A wise person represents those who put Jesus’ words into practice; they too are building to withstand anything. Those who pretend to have faith, who have a merely intellectual commitment, or who enjoy Jesus in small doses are foolish builders. When the storms of life come, their structures fool no one, above all not God.”
- The conclusion to Jesus’ teaching is dramatic. As the house that was built on the sand was faced with the storm, it fell with a great crash. The person who does not trust in Jesus will face a similar fate at the last judgment. They will experience judgment and destruction, rather than life.
  - The Expositor’s Bible Commentary adds, “The sermon ends with what has been implicit throughout it - the demand for radical submission to the exclusive lordship of Jesus, who fulfills the Law and the Prophets and warns the disobedient that the alternative to total obedience, true righteousness, and life in the kingdom is rebellion, self-centeredness, and eternal damnation.”

***When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.***

- Matthew's Gospel transitions from the account of the Sermon on the Mount to the rest of Jesus' ministry by summarizing how the crowds responded to Jesus' teaching. The crowds were amazed by Jesus' teaching, because unlike the other teachers of the law, who quoted endlessly from previous rabbis to show that their teaching carried weight, Jesus taught clearly and directly.
  - The Faithlife Study Bible notes that the word used to describe the reaction of the crowds, *ekplēssō*, describes "being amazed to the point of being overwhelmed."