

Rebel
Wise Builders
Matthew 7:24–29 (HCSB)

INTRO: Our text for today comes from **Matthew 7:24–29**, and they are the final words of what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Immediately after Jesus speaks these words he starts down the mountain and a number of other important ministry encounters take place. However, I want us to pay close attention to the conclusion of Jesus’ message here.

Matthew 7:24–29(HCSB) —²⁴*“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock.* ²⁵*The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.* ²⁶*But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* ²⁷*The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”* ²⁸*When Jesus had finished this sermon, the crowds were astonished at His teaching,* ²⁹*because He was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.*

BIG IDEA: Foolish builders reject wise foundations. Wise builders rebel against foolish foundations.

Have you ever built something? It seems like in our culture fewer and fewer people have had much experience building things. I guess it's one of the blessings of growing up on a farm in the country. You build stuff all the time... Growing up I got to build

1. Fences
2. Cattle pens
3. I watched a large finishing floor for pigs be built
 - a. My brothers and cousins were always building something out of wood, metal, dirt, square bales.
 - i. **Forts**
 - ii. **Bunkers**
 - iii. **Secret hideouts**
 - iv. **We pieced together go karts**
4. Everything that we built as kids is gone now...
 - a. **because we were foolish builders**
 - i. What remains today are things my dad and uncle supervised

- ii. They had much more wisdom and patience in their building projects... more money and resources too... and the result is what they built still remains today...

If you have never built anything then this passage might be harder to grasp. We must remember Jesus our Savior was the son of a carpenter. He grew up building things in his dad's shop. He went to the job site with his dad day after day after day. **Carpenters in the day of Christ were not just wood workers.** They were skilled builders who worked with many different kinds of materials.

The people Jesus was speaking to had all built things. Many of them were builders themselves. And if they were not, they knew someone who was. They had a much closer connection with the process of building than we do today.

There are three things in this text that Jesus highlights, but they all come back to this big idea...

BIG IDEA: foolish builders reject wise foundations. Wise builders rebel against foolish foundations.

Let's start with the fact that we have a choice...

I) The Choice

A) Without even knowing it, you have been building something very important. Even if you are not a builder by trade...

1) Everyone is building something

i. A Career

ii. A Family

iii. A Legacy

iv. A Life

(a) Every day we are alive, we are in the process of building **something that either brings glory to God or does not.**

◆ The wise builders of our generation understand that in **order to build something that lasts, they must make the right choices along the way...**

⇒ Let me introduce you to some guys who might be described as wise builders...

a. When they got ready to build a beach house on the Florida coast, they knew they would have some **choices to make.**

b. Hurricane **Michael** came in and you can see what happened.

i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLjsDQyW5Y8>

B) This house withstood the devastating storm because it was built right...

1) **It had a firm foundation**

2) The builders **paid attention to every detail**

3) They **spent a little more money**

4) They **took a little more time**

5) They thought it through a little more

6) They made some **sacrifices**,

i. getting rid of some windows, a balcony, and other design features that might have looked better, but would have compromised the structure.

(a) **Wise builders reject the idea of building on a foolish foundation...**

♦ If your gonna build it, build it right

♦ If your gonna build your life... why not build it right?

⇒ This is what Jesus said.

C) Matthew 7:24–27(HCSB) —²⁴*“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock.”* ²⁵*The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.* ²⁶*But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* ²⁷*The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”*

1) So Jesus says you have to **make a choice... will you build your life**

i. on the **Word of God**

ii. On the **Promises of God**

iii. In the **Ways of God**

iv. On a **firm Foundation**

2) Or are you going to choose to build on the sand of this world?

i. Building on the **sand**

(a) will be **less expensive**

(b) will be **faster**

(c) will be **more fun**

(d) will be **they much easier way to go**

♦ But it won’t last...

⇒ Throughout his teaching on the Sermon on the mount and throughout his ministry Jesus **reminds his people they must make a choice...**

D) Matthew 7:13–14(HCSB) —¹³*“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who*

go through it. ¹⁴ *How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.*

1) You have to decide, how you will build...

i. Every day you have to **make a choice**

ii. Every moment you must look at what is before you and remember what you are building...

(a) **Will you be wise**

◆ Or will you be fast

(b) **Will you be wise**

◆ or will you be cheap

(c) **Will you be wise**

◆ Or will you be lazy

⇒ Everyone is building something, we are all building a life that is supposed to bring honor and glory and fame to Jesus...

a. **But many of us are building on the sand, not the rock...**

i. Wise builders reject foolish building principles.

E) Jesus also points something that is certain.

II) The Certainty

A) Matthew 7:24–27(HCSB) —²⁴ *“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”*

B) Of the house **built on the rock** Jesus said...

1) **The rain fell**

2) **The rivers rose**

3) **The winds blew, and pounded that house...**

C) Of the house built on the **sand** Jesus said....

1) **The rain fell**

2) **The rivers rose**

3) **The winds blew and pounded that house**

i. **Difficulty** finds us all

ii. **Trouble** finds us all

iii. **Temptation** finds us all

iv. **Tragedy** finds us all

v. **Trials** and struggles find us all.

- (a) The **rain** is going to fall
- (b) The **river** is going to rise
- (c) The **wind** is going to blow and pound against you...
 - ♦ It does not matter where you build this is going to happen
 - ♦ It does not matter how you build this is going to happen
 - ⇒ It's certain to happen....
 - a. It reminds me of what Jesus said in John 16:33

D) John 16:33(HCSB) —³³*I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.*"

- 1) So if you know the **rain** is going to fall
 - 2) If you know the **river** is going to rise
 - 3) If you know its certain that the **wind** is going to blow and pound your house
 - i. The **wise thing to do would be to build it in a way that**
 - (a) The rain
 - (b) River
 - (c) and Wind won't destroy what you have built.
- E) You see when you know your new house is going to be built in a place that hurricanes regularly hit...**
- 1) The wise builder **takes the storm out of the equation.**
 - 2) They build **something strong enough to withstand the storm.**
 - i. They **take the time**
 - ii. **Spend the money**
 - iii. Make the hard choices
 - iv. Because they know the certainty of storms...
- F) When you were 10, 15, and maybe even 20 or 25... you probably did not understand the storms of life...**
- 1) But now that you are 30, 40, 50, 60, 70... you have lived long enough to know...
 - i. The **rain** is going to fall
 - ii. The **river** is going to rise
 - iii. The **wind** is going to blow
 - (a) So why not build your life on the rock?
 - (b) **Why not build it strong, sturdy, and stable so what you are building can survive the next storm?**
 - ♦ It only makes sense...
 - ⇒ But so many continue to build on the sand, and they just hope that no more storms will come their way...
 - ⇒ **They just keep rebuilding the same way they did it last time, and they keep hoping that**

- a. it will never rain again
 - b. The river won't rise again
 - c. The wind won't blow like that ever again.
 - i. Jesus says that's not a wise way to build...
- 2) Wise builders rebel against foolish foundations...
 - i. Wise builders build something that can
 - (a) **Take the Storm, because they understand that storms are certain.**
 - ♦ Let's look at this last point Jesus makes.

III) The Consequence

- A) Jesus says that the house built on the rock...
 - 1) **Despite the rain, rising river, and wind pounding against it...**
 - i. **Did NOT Collapse**
- B) Of the house built foolishly on the sand Jesus said
 - 1) **IT collapsed, and its collapse was great.**
- C) Anything not built right will collapse.
 - 1) I was reminded this week of one of the greatest tourist attractions in the world...
 - i. **The Leaning Tower of Pisa** (I think we have a picture of it)
 - (a) No this is not on the itinerary for when we go to Italy next spring...
 - Why because Peter and Paul never went there... LOL
- D) This is an interesting thing though right... how crazy looking is that.
 - 1) Took **344 years to build**
 - 2) It leans because it was not built on a firm foundation
 - 3) **A major project was done over a decade ago because it was about to fall**
 - 4) Now they think it will last another **200 years as long as an earthquake or some other natural force does not take it down first.**
 - i. So a few observations...
- E) Because someone **wanted to save some time and effort on the foundation we now have this...** and everyone agrees it will collapse and its collapse will be great.
- F) **It's useless-** serves no real purpose, the only reason anyone cares is because it's freaky looking.
- G) **Things built on a bad foundation can last a long time...**
 - 1) A **business**
 - 2) A **marriage**
 - 3) A **church**
 - 4) A **life**
 - i. They can all survive for a really long time even if there is not a good foundation...

- (a) But eventually they will fall if nothing ever changes.
 - (b) Eventually it will collapse, and its collapse will be great.
 - H) But your life, marriage, church, and even business is not exactly like the Leaning Tower of Pisa that has no hope of long-term survival.
 - 1) **Because your life, marriage, church, family, relationships, etc.... are all exposed to something more powerful than gravity...**
 - i. They are exposed to the **radical grace of Jesus**
 - (a) The good news is even if **your teens and 20's were a mess**
 - (b) Even if your **marriage did not start well and has no real foundation**
 - (c) Even if you have not been reading your Bible as you have built your business or life
 - (d) Even if you have been all about
 - ♦ building fast
 - ♦ building cheap
 - ♦ building for looks rather than longevity
- ⇒ **Jesus extends his grace and mercy to you today and says it's not too late...**
- a. **START TODAY...**
 - b. From here forward be wise as you build... never forget.
 - i. Wise builders reject building on foolish foundations.

Conclusion: You will have to make some hard **choices**, you will have to constantly remember the **certainty** of the rain, rivers, and wind, and always keep your eyes focused on the **consequences** of how you build. But you can be a wise builder of your life from this day forward.

This applies to us eternally as well.

Make a **choice** to follow Jesus
 Understand the **Certainty** of Sin
Consequence- Heaven and Hell.