

The Rock, The Sand, The Storm:

Matthew 7:24-27

The teaching of Christ in Matthew 7:24-27 must be considered in light of its larger context.

Matthew 7:24-27 comes as the concluding thought to the Sermon on the Mount.

Context:

- **Context: The Sermon on the Mt.**
 - ***Last:*** It's placement as the last teaching in the Sermon on the Mt. carries great weight.
 - Having said all that He has said, Jesus caps off His teaching with this story.
- **Context:**
 - ***Theme:*** The theme of the Sermon has been Kingdom Law
 - Jesus has given instruction about what citizenship in the Kingdom MUST look like.
 - Now He will give warnings to people who are seeking the Kingdom and who are choosing whether or not to submit to the Kingdom Law.
- **Context:**
 - ***Bookends:***
 - Blessings (Matthew 5:1-12) / Blessing and Cursing (7:7-27)
- **Context:**
 - Judgment.
 - Matthew 7 as a whole is governed by the concept of Judgment.
 - Matthew 7:1 is ripped out of context and used to forbid judging, while the entire rest of the chapter contains a series of warnings about the necessity and consequences of judgment.
 - Vs. 2-5 Hypocritical Judgment
 - Vs. 6 – Dogs and swine
 - Vs. 7-8 – Knock, Seek, Find
 - Vs. 9-12 - Giving and receiving Good Gifts vs. Bad Gifts
 - Vs. 13-14 – Life and Death
 - Vs. 15- 23- Deceivers and Deceived
 - Vs. 24-27 - Security and Destruction

- **Context: Within a Trilogy**
 - **Warnings:** Matthew 7:24-27 is part of three warning passages that conclude the sermon.
 - The Two Ways – vs. 13-14
 - The Two False Witnesses – vs. 15-23
 - Wolf in sheep’s clothing
 - The one who says “Lord, Lord”
 - **Point:** Deceivers and Deceived
 - **These points belong paired together rather than divided into two separate parts (as occurs in Bibles due to section headings).**
 - The Wise and the Foolish Builders

Key: The first and the last warnings parallel one another forming a mini chiasm in which the warning to False Witnesses stands central. **Contrast:** Listen to Christ not to Liars.

Parallels: Having recognized the parallels between vs. 13-14 and vs. 24-27 another key is highlighted:

The Wisdom Key:

The Path of Wisdom and the House of Wisdom VS. The Path of the Fool and the House of Folly are two major concepts that drive the Book of Proverbs.

Wisdom’s Warning: Be careful which *Path You Take* and what kind of *Life You Build*, for both decisions will determine where you spend eternity.

- Here Jesus capitalizes on the voice of Solomon and gives instruction in Wisdom that will lead to either Life or Death.

Key Points: The Two Paths of vs. 13-14 lead either to Life or Death. Likewise, the two houses either end in salvation or destruction. **Point:** The Storms that beat on the houses are the storms of the Final Day Judgment – not the everyday storms of Life.

Keys to Knowledge and Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 3:19

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;

Proverb’s Message: If you are to have a successful and purpose filled life, it all starts with acknowledging:

- ***God is the Creator of the World***
 - As Creator of the World
 - He possesses power that we do not have
 - And He knows more about how His Creation Works than we do
 - Science cannot provide us with the Mind of God though man often wants to play God.
- ***The Path of Wisdom*** begins with going to God and listening to His Instruction about how to live life within His Creation.
 - By the way, Genesis 1 says that this is the purpose for which we were born.
- ***Results of Wisdom:***
 - Follow it and receive blessings from God the Creator
 - Blessings that He has baked into His creation
 - Reject it, and you will receive curses in both this life and into eternity.

Question: How does this relate to what Jesus taught in Matthew 7:

Matthew 7:24

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine...

- Jesus' voice is the voice of both Wisdom and God.
 - o Jesus speaks Wisdom like Solomon but is greater than Solomon for He is in fact the origin of the Wisdom that was granted to Solomon.

- **Matthew 7:28-29**

- And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew 7:24/26

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, ***and does them***, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

Contrast:

“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, ***and does not do them***, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

Point: Both the Wise Man and the Foolish Man Heard. The problem is not with hearing:

Wisdom has made its voice heard.

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom calls aloud outside;
She raises her voice in the open squares.
She cries out in the chief concourses,
At the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words:
“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
For scorners delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.
Turn at my rebuke;
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

Because you disdained all my counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,
***When your terror comes like a storm,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.***
*“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the Lord,
They would have none of my counsel
And despised my every rebuke.
Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way,
And be filled to the full with their own fancies.
For the turning away of the simple will slay them,
And the complacency of fools will destroy them;
But whoever listens to me will dwell safely,
And will be secure, without fear of evil.”*

Wisdom’s Cry:

- It was Loud and Clear
- It was Understood – yet Rejected
- It offered blessings but the result for the Fool was curses.
- The curses came upon the fool at the end of his life like a storm.
- The storm beat upon him until he was destroyed.
- While the wise man dwelt safely through the storm by heading the cry of wisdom.

Does this sound familiar?

Major Point: The challenge of being a Wise Man is not in Hearing, but Doing. Likewise, the challenge of Salvation is the same as the challenge of Wisdom:

- Salvation begins with the fear of God and acknowledgement that Jesus is God.
- We must recognize that just as God Created and Rules Over the World, Christ Created and Rules Over His Kingdom.
- Just as God knows more about how His the design and purpose Creation, so Christ knows more about His design and purpose for His Kingdom.
 - o Christ not only knows best, Like God He wants the best for His Creation.

Major Points:

- Man does not get to play God.
 - o If you defy the Wisdom of the Creator and build your house according to your own standard – it will fall.
- When man rebels against the Call of God and the Message of Christ – He acts as the Fool and declares that there is NO GOD.

A Side Point About Storms, Wisdom, and Judgment:

As Mathew depicted the rain beating down on the house and the floods rising up we are expected to be reminded of the FLOOD – a scene in which the Builder was Secure for he had trusted in the Word of God and built accordingly.

The significance of this point is scene when we understand the connection between Jesus first sermon and ***His Final Sermon.***

Matthew 24:37-39 – Jesus reminds His hearers of the Day of the Flood (The Judgment Theme), in which the storm came and swept the wicked away in judgment.

Matthew 25:1-13 – Jesus spoke of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (The Wisdom Theme) who awaited the Bride Groom's arrival.

We will not get into those two scenes now, but we must understand the story of the two builders in Matthew 7 as related to both scenes of judgment in Jesus final sermon.

A Closing Point:

Before we close I want to emphasize one more point.

1. What it means to build on the Rock.

To be “Built on the Rock” means to be Hear and Obey the sayings of Christ.

Key Point: You cannot separate Christ from His Message. To be built on the Word of Christ means to be Built on the Person of Christ.

Matthew 16:18

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Christ declares that He will build His Church on “The Rock”
- “The Rock” is the FACT of His Person – His Deity as the Son of God.

Matthew 21:41-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the Lord’s doing,

And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

- Jesus is the Rock upon which the New Temple will be built.
 - This is another way of saying that the church will be built on the person of Christ.
- Comes with a Warning: If you beat upon the Rock, you will be destroyed. If the Rock falls upon you – you will be ground to powder.
 - This is an allusion to Daniel 2:44-45

Daniel 2:44-45

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

Point: Jesus is the Unbreakable Rock who becomes The Mountain and destroys all the kingdoms of this world.

Major Point: That is the Rock you want to build your house on.

Get This: It is impossible to build your house on The Rock of Christ’ Word, without building it on the Rock of His Person

Common Expression: We want the Man, but not the Plan. **Point:** You cannot separate the Rock of Christ’ Word from the Rock of Christ’ Person.

One More Thing: When you hear and obey Christ’ Word and build your life on Christ, you are of necessity built into the church that was founded on that same foundation Rock.

Acts 2:41/47

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Take Away Point: Trying to find a relationship with Christ, outside of a relationship with His Word or His Church is building a House on Sand that will be destroyed.