

SAME BUT DIFFERENT

MATTHEW 7:24-27

11-26-23

I. SIMILAR HOUSE

Matthew 7:24a – “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7:26a – “And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”

1. Both hear the words of God and desire to build a spiritual house (life)
2. Both homes are indistinguishable

II. SIMILAR HOUSE...BUT DIFFERENT FOUNDATION

Matthew 7:24b – “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7:26b – “And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”

1. Foundation of the rock = God’s Word

Matthew 16:16-18 - “Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered 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 tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.’”

2. Foundation of the sand = Anything Else
3. Foundations are hidden from casual observers

III. SIMILAR STORMS

Matthew 7:25a – “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

Matthew 7:27a – “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

1. Storms happen for the righteous and unrighteous
 - “Rain fell...floods came...winds blew”

IV. SIMILAR STORMS...BUT DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

Matthew 7:25b – “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

Matthew 7:27b – “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

1. **Foundation of the rock – Endures**
2. **Foundation of sand – Fails**
 - “Great was the fall of it” – Complete destruction
3. **The storms exposed the true nature of the houses**
 - All houses will be exposed in God’s final judgement

V. HOW DO WE ENSURE SURVIVAL IN THE STORMS?

1. **Wise man hears God’s Word and does it**
 - God’s word is transformational
2. **Foolish man hears God’s Word but is unmoved by it**

James 1:22-24 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like”

3. **If we only hear, we deceive ourselves**
4. **The major difference is what we do with God’s Word!**

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. If during a discussion with a friend about other religions they said, "Well, at least we are all headed to the same place!" how would you respond?
3. Why don't Christians prioritize the reading and studying of Scripture? How can we make Scripture more of a priority in our lives? With our families and children?
4. If a friend asked you why the Bible was so important to you...what would you say?
5. God's Word compels us to action. What are some things in the sermon on the Mount that compel us to be doers of the Word? What are some other passages of scripture that compel us to be doers of the Word?
6. How has God's Word proven to be a rock-solid foundation in your life?

READ PROVERBS 9:10 AS A GROUP

7. How do we fear the Lord?
8. How does this verse relate to Jesus' words about the wise man in Matthew 7?
9. Share with the group a time you walked through a storm in your life that tested your faith? What did it reveal to you about God? Why was it important for you to walk through that?