

What is the Foundation of Your Life

Matthew 7:24-27

In Matthew chapter seven, Jesus comes to the conclusion of his great sermon on the Mount. And you remember he said in verse 24, therefore, whosoever hear these sayings of mine, and do with them, him will I liken unto a wise man that built his house upon the rock. He said, the rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell not.

But whosoever here at these sayings of mine, and do with them not whom shall I liken unto a foolish man that built his house upon the sand? And he said, the rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew, and beat upon that house. And he said, it fell, and great was the fall thereof. Jesus here again, bringing to a close this magnificent sermon.

The Lord Jesus had been talking about fundamental traits to be internalized and the lives of those who would be his disciples. And so in verse 24, when he said, therefore, that is in light of everything that's just been said, those who are wise hear what he has to say and put it into action. But he said, those who hear what he has to say and fail to put his word into action.

He deemed those people foolish. So you have a contrast between the wise and foolish builders. Back in Matthew chapter seven, earlier, the Lord Jesus had already talked about the broad road and the narrow road, the broad gate, the wide gate, and the narrow gate. Now he's talking about two builders and a buddy of mine. I had the opportunity to visit with his mom not long ago as we made our way to his home in Tupelo.

He was telling me that his dad built the home that his mom now lives in, and he said he built it in 1979. And he said, you just would not believe the foundation upon which this House rest. He said, let me tell you what. It would take an incredible storm to move this house off of its foundation. Well, Jesus is using the illustration of a builder he's talking about.

A wise builder is going to build on rock. Rock solid foundation, if you please. But he said a foolish builder is going to build on sand. And the foolish builder is going to see his house tumble down. Many of us have seen homes that have been built on a foundation. That was not what it ought to have been, and we have seen the problems that have resulted there in.

So when we look at Matthew chapter seven and we talk about the importance of building on a rock solid foundation as opposed to building on sand, you remember what the psalmist said in Psalm 127. The psalmist said, accept the Lord, build the house those who labor labor in vain. Psalm 127, verse one is the Lord, the builder of your life?

Is the Lord the foundation of your life? When you think about Jesus and His teaching, did you know that the prerequisite to genuine peace, happiness, contentment, satisfaction, success in this life, all of that is rooted in taking to heart his teaching? We might say we hear what the Lord says and we're going to put it into practice. One of the common phrases found in revelations in Revelation chapters two and three.

The Lord Jesus had the opportunity to survey the seven churches of Asia. And you remember he would conclude each and every summation by saying, he who has ears to hear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches. It's important for us to listen and to listen attentively to what the Lord Jesus has to say. Jesus asked this question on one occasion why

do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

You see the test? The acid test, whereby we can affirm that we are one of the disciples of Jesus, is by listening to what he has to say and putting that into practice. Jesus would say, if you love me, keep my commandments. John writes in first John chapter five he said, this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

His commandments are not grievous or burdensome. So there's something to be said about honoring the Word of God again in revelation chapter 22, in verse 14. John said, blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and enter through the gates into the city. In first John chapter two, in verse three.

John said, hereby we do know that we know him. Okay, John. How do we know that we knowing him? If we keep his commandments? So there you have it. If we'll take what the Lord has said, and we will put that into practice, our lives will turn out so much better. You look around in the world today and you see people that are struggling.

Individuals whose whose lives are far from what they would like those lives to be. And you wonder, have they ever taken the time to examine what the Bible has to say? We can ask the question and not to be mean, but to just ask, how are things working out for you? You know, there are a lot of people in the world today.

Their lives are an absolute train wreck, a mess. And the reason is because they failed to implement the teaching of the Lord. Back in Matthew chapter five. Don't you think it's interesting that Jesus began this great sermon by talking about the importance of humility? When he said, blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Why is humility so important? Well, many of us, we've known folks that we would label as no one else. They know everything. Can't tell them anything. There are people in our world today. They have so much pride. They fail to understand there's a better way of life. They fail to admit they failed to come to the conclusion. You know what I made mistakes in my life.

Maybe I don't know it all. Humility is a prerequisite to living for the Lord. To realize that what I think isn't always best. But rather to understand that the way of the Lord, the teaching of the Lord is what's best. It takes humility to come to an understanding that, look, sin is a problem and that I might be a good neighbor.

I might be a loving family member. But if I don't have the blood of Christ in my life, I'm lost. Now, sin is identified by John as a transgression of the law. First John chapter three, verse four. And Paul said, there is none righteous, no not one. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Listen to this.

The consequences of living a life of sin. Paul writes in Romans chapter six, verse 23, the wages of sin is death. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. So Jesus begins the Beatitudes, this sermon on the Mount, by talking about the importance of humility. And then couple that those who mourn the idea of mourning. Now, many people in our world today, they mourn because of the loss of a loved one.

That's not the kind of mourning that Jesus is talking about here. No, Jesus said, blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. To understand that my life, separate and apart from God, is a broken life. That I am in every sense of the word, living in spiritual poverty. When I recognize that sin has separated me, and that I began to mourn, to understand the gravity of sin and what sin has done to a loving, holy God.

And because of sin, I've been separated from him. And yet through the grace, mercy, and love overtures have been made so that I might enjoy a relationship with the Lord. Again Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, the life. No man comes unto the father but by me. John 14 verse six. Listen to Jesus in Matthew 11 the Lord said, come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden.

The promise being I will give you rest will rest from what rest from the burden of sin. Sometimes when we talk about the stain and shame of sin, and there are people in our world today, they are trying to self-medicate. They use alcohol. Other types of recreational drugs, and the goal is to somehow escape their past, to somehow loosen the burden of sin.

Well, the fact of the matter is, the only thing that's really going to alleviate the burden of sin is Jesus and His cleansing blood. Again, going back to Matthew chapter five, Jesus is laying out some very important principles that will help us. You remember he talked about the need to hunger and thirst after righteousness. We might say to hunger and thirst after spiritual things and the promise is will be filled.

He talked about blessed are the pure in heart. Well, why is it so important to place value on spiritual things? Well, over in chapter six, Jesus said that we're to live for ourselves. Treasures in heaven. He said, where neither moth nor rust corrupt. No thieves break in and steal. But he said, those who are laying up treasures on have, or rather on earth.

Those treasures are subject to corrosion, to passing away. And so he would conclude in verse 21 by saying, where your treasure is, there your heart is also. Why would he emphasize the need to lay up treasures in heaven? Because we're not going to be here forever. Again, think about what Jesus is saying. Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them.

So, number one, we've got to be willing to listen to what the Son of God had to say. But then I would couple with that the importance of learning what he has to say. So I've got to hear what he says, but then I've got to take what he says, and I've got to learn these truths. I've got to learn the value of humility.

I've got to see a value in recognizing my spiritual poverty, what sin has done. And because of sin, I'm separated from God, and I need Christ. And so I'm going to mourn for my sins. I'm going to turn to him. I've got to see the value in spiritual things and hungering and thirst after righteousness. Look at people in our world today.

What's the focal point of their lives? Well, in many cases, it's all about the here. Now, I mean, it's all about what they can get out of this life. No thought about tomorrow? Certainly no thought for eternity. And yet they're constantly trying to acquire more and more of the world's goods. People today, in hot pursuit of power and popularity.

I mean, there are people today in our world. They want to be a household name. Others. It's all about trying to build and build and build a greater fortress to house all of their material goods. You remember in Luke 12 when Jesus said on one occasion, beware and take heed of covetousness. A man's life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Well, why is that? Because we're only here for a period of time, and then we're gone. Paul said we brought nothing into this world. It is certain we can carry nothing out. And a job said the same thing. Now I know that there are folks that live as if they're going to be here forever. But the fact of the matter is, that's not the case.

No, the Hebrew writer said it is appointed and a man wants to die. After this comes the judgment. So in Matthew 16, listen to Jesus. Jesus asked, what shall it profit a man if he

shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Oh, I know you can gain the world, and you can guard a lot of the squirrel's goods.

There are some folks in our world today. They've been identified as billionaires. But when they leave this world, what are they taking with them? They're not taking the money. They're not taking their property. They're not taking their stocks and bonds and company assets. No, none of that's going with them. That's why Jesus said that we're to lay up for ourselves treasures not on earth, but in heaven.

In Second Corinthians chapter four, Paul said, on one occasion, while we look not at the things which are seen, therein lies the problem of a lot of people. Again, it's all about the material side of life. They fail to see that there is an eternity lying before them. But Paul said, we don't look at the things which are seen, but rather at the things which are not seen, the things which are seen.

He said, our temporal. Well, things which are not seen are eternal. When you look at life, through what lens are you looking? Are you looking at life solely from the world, a worldly vantage point? Or are you trying to shape and mold your life through the lens of the Word of God? Now again, Jesus said, line up. Up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt thieves break.

Don't steal, but live for yourselves. Treasures. Where in heaven where neither moth or rust corrupt northeast. Break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there where your heart be. Also drop down. Look at verse 3333. In Matthew 633, Jesus said, but seek first. That means before anything else you seek first the kingdom of God. Now we talk about listening to the Word of God and then learning the Word of God.

I can't practice something that I know nothing about. Well, what does it mean to put the kingdom first? It means to put spiritual things first. Did you know that the Lord Jesus Christ wants to be preeminent in your life? If you want to sit down today, let me just encourage you to do this. Do this. Sit down and just make a list of what's important to you.

And out of that list. Ask yourself this question what is the most important thing in my life? Is it family? Is it finances? Is it your career? Be. What's number one in your life? In Colossians chapter three, verse two. Paul said this. Paul said, set your affections, set your mind on things above and not on things which are upon this earth.

Look at verse four. Paul said, For Christ, who is our life. If Jesus is the hub, the focal point of your life, you're not listening to his sayings. You're not putting those sayings into practice and you're not building building on that rock solid foundation. So again, Jesus said, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

If you look at the life of Paul, had we the opportunity to maybe interview Paul? What would you think was number one in his life? Well, in Galatians two, in verse 20, I hear Paul saying, no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. So, number one, I've got to listen to what the Lord has to say.

I've got to learn what the Lord has said, and then I've got to. I've got to demonstrate loyalty to the Lord. Think for a moment about marriage. One of the reasons why many marriages in our world today, why those marriages don't last is because of infidelity, but just a lack of loyalty. When. When people break that marital vow.

Well, there's a problem there. Jesus said, what? Therefore, God has joined together. Let not

man put asunder. Now Paul in Romans chapter seven and verse four said that we have been married to Christ. So what the Lord expects from us is absolute loyalty. When we make Jesus the Lord of our life, what we're saying is we're not calling the shots anymore.

It's not about what I think and what I want to do. Now, I understand we all have free will, but the bottom line is we are allowing the Lord to direct our steps, and we're striving to the best of our ability to live a life of loyalty. Now, think for a moment or two about what Jesus said in our lesson text.

Jesus talked about the storms of life. Those storms hit the last builder, just like those storms hit the foolish builder. Now the wise builder built his house upon the rock. And Jesus said, the rains descended, the floods came. The winds blew, beat on that house, and it did not fall. The foolish builder, however, built his house on the sand.

The rains descended, the floods came. The winds blew and beat on that house. Listen to him. And it fell. Could I say to you the storms of life. They're coming. I assure you, you will face storms in your life. That's true. If you're a Christian, it is true. If you're not a Christian. Think for a moment or two about how we live in a world in which the world that we're living in is faced with temptation on every level.

The Bible says that the devil walks about us, a roaring lion seeking whom he made of our one of the storms that we face in this life, the various temptations of life, the devil uses, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes to try to lead us astray, along with the pride of life. We talked a moment ago about humility.

Well, the devil knows that there are weaknesses in mankind. And what the devil is trying to do is to exploit our weaknesses. Remember what James said. Let no man say when he is tempted. I'm tempted by God. For God cannot be tempted with evil. Neither tempts he any man. But every man is tempted when he's drawn away by his own lust, when it has conceived breaks for sin and sin when it is full grown, brings forth death.

James simply saying to us that the devil will bait us. He'll use various lures to do what? To lure us into temptation. Wants to lead us astray. He wants to circumvent our faith. So we got to understand that one of the storms that we're going to face and this life temptation. But now Jesus said, blessed is a man that endures temptation.

For when he has been tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord's promised to them that love him. Well, what about trials? Are there not people in our world today that are faced with any number of trials? Well, sure there are. One of the, I think, saddest commercials that I see on a regular basis on television commercials that advertise the work at Saint Jude Hospital.

Now, that's a great hospital, and I appreciate what they're doing for young, for young people, for children, and the fact that they have invested heavily, heavily in trying to find a cure for cancer. Well, there are a lot of people in our world today that are faced with various trials, whether it be cancer, disease, some type of illness, financial reversal.

I mean, the list is on and on and on. And so James said, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the trying of your faith produces what? Patience, perseverance. James, are saying that there are some benefits to suffering. One of the things that suffering brings about in our lives is clarity. What's really important?

Are we focusing on spiritual things or earthly things? Sometimes when we suffer, when we

face the trials of life, the storms of life, if you please, it deepens our trust and commitment to the Lord. We come to understand. You know what? I've got to put my trust in God. So again, the storms of life, they're coming and the storms of life will test our loyalty to the Lord.

You ever known somebody that faced difficulty in life and asked the question, why? Why me? A lot of people ask that question. I don't think there's anything wrong with asking the question, but I don't need to ask the question and allow that question to circumvent my faith in God and ask, what word was God when all this unfolded in my life?

Let me tell you what the Lord is the same place he was when his son died on Calvary. He's in heaven. And you need to understand, as Peter said many years ago, casting all your care on him, for he cares for you. You've got to take what the Lord says and make application to your life. Now let me tell you something else.

We talk about listening to the Lord and learning about the Lord, emphasizing loyalty to the Lord. What about leaning on the Lord? I mentioned a moment ago the storms of life to learn to cast our cares on God. The Psalmist in Psalm 55 said, cast your burden on the Lord, and he'll sustain you. He won't allow the righteous to be moved.

So to put our trust, to put our faith in the Lord and to lean on him. Now, if we look at the sermon on the Mount, Jesus is saying, therefore, whosoever hear these sayings of mine and does them, you know, I'm not going to put into practice the teaching of Jesus unless I trust him, unless I have rock solid faith that he knows what he's talking about.

I mean, doesn't that sound reasonable to you? I mean, do you listen to the people and follow the advice of people that you don't trust, that you don't have confidence in? So if I'm going to lean on the Lord and I'm going to trust in his word, then I've got to have trust. I've got to have trust in him.

I mean, I've got to have rock solid faith that the Lord knows what he's talking about, that he is who you claim to be. Well, who's that? The Son of God. Matthew concludes this great sermon by saying that those who were present on the occasion were astonished at his teaching. Why? Because he taught them as one having authority and not as one of the scribes.

For about 3 or 3 and a half years, people had the opportunity to get an up close view of the Lord. They could hear him. They could see him at work. They could watch as he interacted with people. They had the opportunity to interact with him. And over that period of time, do you not think that there were people that came to rely upon the Lord to trust him?

Well, we've got to do the same thing. So that's why it's important for us to investigate, to do our research, to make sure that our faith and trust is in the Lord. Listen to Solomon. Solomon said, trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not under your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your steps.

I want to conclude by saying this. If we hear what Jesus says and put those sayings into action, Jesus said, we'll be a wise person. And I want to conclude this by saying, we need to learn to love the Lord, to love him with all of our heart, soul, and mind. To realize that our love for him is the catalyst for everything we do.

John said we love him because he first loved us. Could I ask you a question? Have you taken what Jesus has said in this book that we call the Bible, and put that into action? Did you know it begins by becoming one of his disciples? Now, I know in chapters five through seven Jesus is laying a foundation, and the Lord Jesus is saying that here are some traits and

characteristics that must be internalized in your life, in the lives of people.

Well, it begins with honoring His Word. Listen to Jesus. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that do it, the will of my father which is in heaven. What's the prerequisite to entering the kingdom? I got to believe Jesus is the Son of God, to realize his who claim to be the Divine Son of God.

John eight and then to repent, to turn from a life of sin, to confess with my mouth what I believe in my heart. Well, what is that? That Jesus is who claimed to be the Son of God, and then to be immersed or buried with Christ in a watery grave for baptism, to rise, to walk in newness of life.

Why am I baptized? What Jesus said I need to be baptized to be saved. Mark 16:16 Peter said, I need to be baptized so that my sins can be remitted. Acts 22:8 Paul said, we need to be baptized so our sins can be washed away. If you done that, and once you've done that, my encouragement is you be faithful until death.

You build a rock solid life on the foundation of Christ. Hope to see you back here next week. Until then, God bless.