

# What Do You Say To Jesus?

Matthew 7:24-29

I don't know about you, but I have had a wonderful time in the Sermon on the Mount with you the past few months. I hope that you have learned, and have grown in your knowledge of what Jesus taught, but also, not just that you've grown in knowledge, but that you've implemented what Jesus has been teaching us. I hope you haven't just admired Jesus' Sermon; I hope you have taken it to heart!

In fact, this is exactly how Jesus closes out his sermon today, by giving us a picture of the incredible importance of how we respond to what He has said! We must not only be hearers of the word, but doers also! It's not just that we're missing out if we don't implement Jesus' teaching, it's much more than that.

In our text Jesus is painting a picture that is easy to understand. Jesus speaks of having the proper foundation upon which we all should build for eternity. Jesus here compares the man who hears his words and DOES them with the man who hears them but does NOT do them. He says one is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The other is like a fool who built his house on the sand. So, today, I want to look at each of these two points he makes, then some applications comparing building on the rock vs. building on the sand.

## Two Points from Jesus

**1. The wise man hears and obeys.** *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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.”* (24-25).

There are lots of people who hear Jesus' teaching, or who have read Jesus' teaching. There are many who even admire Jesus' teaching, but according to Jesus Himself, it is the one who **DOES** what he says who is building his life on the rock.

It's the one who obeys his teaching who will be able to withstand the rain and the floods and the winds. It seems as if the wind, rain and floods here refer to the pressures of life. Only those who live by what Jesus teaches will be able to withstand everything that life brings. Merely listening to what Jesus taught, and even knowing it well, will not help us when we face hardship or pain and suffering.

But this also symbolizes something else. In context with everything we've been looking at the last few weeks, Jesus' words from last week in verses 21-23 about many deceiving themselves into thinking that they know God. Jesus here is also speaking in reference to God's judgment! Jesus is not just saying if you build your house on the rock, then life will be better for you, and you'll withstand the tests of rain and wind and floods. He's saying that if you build your house on the rock, you will withstand the **ULTIMATE** test of God's judgment!

And the foundation here, is Jesus Himself. How do we build our houses, build our lives upon Jesus? Not just by listening, but by obeying! To listen and not obey reveals that Jesus is not our Rock, and we are not building our lives upon Him, which brings us to Jesus' second point:

**2. The fool hears and doesn't obey. (vv. 26-27) *“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. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was its fall.”***

This is not just a plea from Jesus to obey him in order to not miss out on the life he offers. This is also a warning. The last part of the verse: ***“and that house fell, and great was its fall.”*** This makes clear the true standard of righteousness.

It's not just hearing and even acknowledging Christ's teaching that makes us righteous in God's eyes. It's only those who take it to heart and **do them** who are in the kingdom of God.

There are billions of souls that think they're saved but aren't, according to last week's text. It is important to be clear on these issues.

## Three Theological Points

### 1. Repentance and faith are required for salvation.

In our text, the wise man was not one who just heard Jesus' words and even believed them; he was the one who **DID** them. The simplest way to define repentance is "turning from sin." The simplest way to define faith is "turning to Christ."

I believe in "grace" God's gift of salvation to mankind. This is something that is unearned and based simply upon God's love and mercy. There is a "grace only" theory that some adhere to that misunderstands what it means for grace to be free. Their theology adamantly opposes preaching repentance and baptism for salvation. They say preaching these is akin to preaching a works-based salvation. My problem with that is simple: The Bible clearly presents repentance and baptism as part of saving faith.

Acts 20:21- Paul says, ***"I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."***

This seems clear. They **MUST** turn to God in repentance and faith. In the famous example of Peter sharing the Gospel at Pentecost in Acts 2, when the people were "cut to the heart," and asked, "What shall we do?" Peter responded with ***"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*** (Acts 2:38). The simple truth of the matter is that we can't preach the full biblical gospel if we don't preach repentance and baptism for the remission of sins. If repentance **AND** faith are required for salvation, then the next point comes naturally:

### 2. God requiring repentance doesn't negate Justification by Faith.

It's one of the primary doctrines that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions.

Paul makes it clear in Romans 3:28 *“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”* So how can the New Testament demand repentance and baptism be done for salvation?

Think of it like this: We must do something to be saved, but that doesn't mean we're doing something that earns salvation. In the same way that me reaching my arms out to receive a gift doesn't mean I'm suddenly earning the gift, and so it's no longer a gift but a work on my part. My turning from sin and obeying the gospel of Christ doesn't mean that God's grace is suddenly no longer a gift, even though I had to do something to receive it.

We preach as Peter, and Paul, and John the Baptist preached: Repent, and be baptized placing your faith in Christ. And yet, we also know as they knew, that we can't even take credit for faith and baptism. It's something we do, yes, but ultimately God is the One who makes these available to us to wash away our sins.

### **3. True, saving faith is that which recognizes AND submits to Jesus as Savior AND Lord.**

This was one of the main points that Jesus made in last week's lesson. There will be not just some, but MANY, who call Jesus, “Lord, Lord,” and yet not enter heaven. We can believe in Jesus as Lord all we want, but do we truly **KNOW** Him as Lord? Does He truly **KNOW** us as His disciples and obedient children? That's the question we must answer!

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? The one who does the will of the Father. Who, according to today's text, will withstand the test of rain and floods and winds, and ultimately the test of God's judgment? The one who hears Jesus' words **AND DOES THEM!** Jesus as **SAVIOR** can never be separated from Jesus as **LORD**. Christian as **BELIEVER** can never be separated from Christian as **FOLLOWER**. You do not earn your salvation by being good enough, nor by adopting the moral teachings of Christianity.

You receive salvation when you obey the gospel and turn your life over to God. We are justified by faith, but a changed life and heart and actions are evidence of following true faith.

Throughout this sermon, Jesus has spoken against superficial belief and religion and being focused on **looking** a certain way vs. **BEING** a certain way. That's why Jesus closing with this picture of building your house on the rock is just so fitting.

So, the question for you and me today. Are we building our lives on Jesus? Three brief applications for how to truly build on the Rock who is Christ:

- 1. To build on the Rock, you can't be in a hurry.**
- 2. To build on the rock, you must dig the hard way (deep).**
- 3. To build on the rock, you must do it His way, not yours.**

To build on the rock, you must do it His way, not ours. If you want to truly build your life on Christ the Solid Rock, you cannot just be living life the best way YOU know how! God has given us His Word to LIVE by! Let's do it HIS way, not ours. The foolish man doesn't take instruction very well, can't learn from someone else. The wise man is willing to do it God's way.

## **Conclusion**

Throughout the sermon on the mount, Jesus' words are neat, and meaningful. However, we can still choose to not build our life around them.

Is Christ truly our Solid Rock? I pray the answer is yes. And a yes that grows year by year.