

# The Wise And Foolish Builder

*Matthew 7:24-27*

**Introduction:** Mark Tallman, one of the members at Evendale, had the invitation on a Wednesday night and he used these verses. One of his comments that night was really a good one. Mark pointed out then that both of these men built a house and both had many experiences in common. Yet, there was a very significant difference between the two that wrought dramatic results. I liked the comment and have developed this lesson as a result.

Notice what these two men had in common:

- Both heard Jesus
- Both built houses
- Both experienced rain descending
- Both had floods come up
- Both had winds to blow
- One stood
- One fell

Why?

Because of what the builders did!

One heard Jesus and followed Him and was successful

One heard Jesus and rejected Him and failed

## I. Hearing And Doing.

- A. The choices we make in regard to the gospel of Christ have an effect upon our future and our final destiny (*Jn. 12:44-50; 14:23-24*).
- B. There is a blessing for those who read, hear and keep what is written (*Rev. 1:3*).
- C. There is no special “magic” or trick to it. The gospel is given in such a way that all who can hear it can understand it and follow it (*Matt. 11:15; Rev. 2:7; Eph. 3:4*).
- D. Today we have people who have heard of the Bible. They have great respect for it and believe it should be read and followed. Yet, an overwhelming number does none of what they admit ought to be done!

## II. The Firm Foundation.

- A. The wise builder built his house upon a rock (*v. 24*). We are told that Christ is the Rock (*1 Cor. 10:4*). There is no other foundation to build upon that can last except for Christ (*1 Cor. 3:11*).
- B. Proverbs tells us “*Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars*” (*Prov. 9:1*). Let us look at seven pillars to build our house upon. (Remember that a pillar rests upon the foundation).

1. Purpose. A life without purpose is an empty life. Our purpose for living is to give glory to God (*Eph. 3:21*). All of us are in debt to the one who paid the price for our salvation (*1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Jn. 2:2*).
  2. Courage. To be a Christian will require the very personification of courage (*1 Cor. 16:13; Phil. 1:27-28; 2 Tim. 1:7*).
  3. Purity. We must be the genuine article, not a counterfeit. Sin disfigures and mars the image of Christ we should project (*1 Tim. 5:22; 1:5*).
  4. Unselfishness. A mark of Jesus is in His unselfish giving (*Gal. 1:4; Rom. 5:6-8*). A Christian should bear these same marks (*Phil. 2:1-4*).
  5. Working. Jesus spent His time working as God desired of Him (*Jn. 9:4*). We are to work out our salvation (*Phil. 2:12*). It is the word of God that reveals what these good works are that are expected of us.
  6. Right Thinking. *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”* (*Prov. 23:7*). *“Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it spring the issues of life”* (*Prov. 4:23*). Right thinking will be the result when one thinks on the right things (*Phil. 4:8*).
  7. Faith. *“We walk by faith and not by sight”* (*2 Cor. 5:7*). A faith that is intelligent, firm, grounded, practical, personal is what is needed. Such faith is only found in the word of God (*Rom. 10:17*) and is the only kind of faith that is acceptable to God (*Heb. 11:6*).
- C. All of these are great and wonderful things. Things to be sought and things that are greatly admired. A house built upon these pillars resting upon the foundation of Jesus Christ will be secure, a haven of safety for the soul.

## But The House That Was Built Upon The Sand Has Nothing And No Expectation Of Having Anything!

**Conclusion:** Let us reflect again upon what we began the lesson with:

- Everyone here today has heard Jesus
- Everyone here will build houses
- Everyone here will experience rain descending
- Everyone here will have floods come up
- Everyone here will have winds to blow
- Some will stand
- Some will fall

What happens will depend upon what you do about the gospel of Jesus Christ and what kind of a builder you are?