

Recap from  
last week's study:

*Narrow Pathway*  
Matthew 7:13-23

- Good fruit vs. bad fruit, and how to discern the difference.
- Who influences us determines which path we take.

  
MATT.  
7:24-29  
NIV

# STORMS COME TO TEST EVERYONE

## APPLICATION OF THE WORD IS THE ONLY WAY TO STAY STANDING

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24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

-Matthew 7:24-29

### Additional Reading

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. - James 1: 22-25

...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. -Matthew 5:45b

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. - 1 Corinthians 3:10-14



## LET'S EXPLORE MATTHEW 7:24-29

### Observe:

- **Verse 24:** "*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice...*"
  - **Therefore** - a conjunction word: a word used to connect clauses or sentences.
    - So Jesus is connecting the previous teachings (Matthew chapters 5-7) with what He is about to explain.
  - **Everyone who hears**
    - You have to be willing to listen.
  - **AND puts them into practice**
    - Agreement and liking the Word is not enough...application is necessary in order to be considered "wise" in Jesus' eyes.
- **Verse 25:** The effects of being obedient to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and applying it to your every day life.
  - Observe the effects of obedience listed out in verse 25?
- **Verse 26:** To hear and NOT put into practice is considered foolish in Jesus' eyes.
- **Summarizing verses 25 & 26:**
  - Note how the wise and the foolish both experienced the same storm, but only one house stayed standing.
    - What does this tell you about the just nature of God?
    - What does this tell you about your responsibility in building your life?
- **Verse 27:** Observe the effects of foolish building (hearing Jesus' words but brushing off His instruction).
- **Verse 28:** Listening and obeying Jesus' voice leaves you in awe and wonder.
- **Verse 29:** Jesus spoke with authority unlike the teachers of the Law
  - What have you learned about the teachers of the Law throughout our study on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)?
- **In conclusion:** Go back and skim through Matthew chapters 5, 6 & 7 in your Bible, and read the headings of each section as a reminder of what we've learned.
  - **The Message Translation puts it this way:**
    - Matthew 24-25 "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. 26-27 "But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

### Interpret:

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



## NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

In Matthew 7:24-29, Jesus uses the image of two builders to highlight the importance of not just hearing His words but living them out. One builder constructs his house on a solid rock foundation, representing those who hear and apply the Word of God in every situation in their life. The other builds on sand, symbolizing those who hear but fail to act in obedience. When the storm comes, only the house built on the rock stands firm. The storm reveals what was hidden—the strength of the foundation—showing that appearances alone aren't enough to endure life's challenges. James 1:22-25 reinforces this truth, urging us to be doers of the Word, not merely listeners. Hearing alone, like glancing in a mirror and walking away unchanged, leaves us unprepared for the storms of life.

Think of a movie set with its diverse buildings and intricate architectural details. From the outside, everything looks perfect—beautiful structures that seem solid and impressive. But behind the facade, it's all hollow, propped up by temporary supports. When the wind picks up, the rain falls, or someone leans a little too hard, the illusion crumbles. Similarly, Matthew 5:45 reminds us that storms—trials and difficulties—fall on everyone, whether righteous or unrighteous. What separates us isn't avoiding storms but being grounded in God's Word. Without a firm foundation, no amount of external effort or appearances can keep us standing.

Applying the Word of God is like building with materials that will last. As Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 3:10-14, the quality of our spiritual foundation and work will be tested by fire. If we build on Christ with eternal truths, what we create will endure; if we rely on shallow materials like sand, it will be exposed and lost. When storms strip away the surface, they reveal what's inside—a heart shaped by God's Word or one propped up by temporary fixes. Building on rock means preparing for those moments when life doesn't go as planned, trusting that obedience to God will sustain us because He is faithful and His word is trustworthy.

Maybe life hasn't turned out how you expected—the career you built feels shaky, or the relationships you leaned on have started to give way. The storm exposes everything. But it's in these moments that your foundation is tested. Like a movie set with its facade torn away, what remains is what you've built inside—your faith, your integrity, and your relationship with God. Living out the Word isn't just a religious task; it's the key to lasting strength and peace when life's inevitable storms come. In summary...we can't prevent storms, but thank God that He's instructed us through His Word and by the empowerment of His Spirit on how to outlast them. By His sustaining power, we're still standing.



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Personal Foundation:** When you think about your own life, are you building on the solid foundation of living out God's Word, or are you relying on external appearances or temporary fixes?
    - What steps can you take this week to make sure your faith and actions align more deeply?
  - **Storm Readiness:** Think about a time when you faced a significant storm in your life. Did it expose areas where your foundation wasn't as strong as you thought?
    - How can you begin rebuilding those areas with God's Word as your guide?
    - How will you rebuild differently this time around?
  - **Lasting Impact:** If your life were tested by fire, like Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 3, what parts of your "building" would endure?
    - Are there parts of your life that feel like a movie set—hollow behind the facade? How can you prioritize eternal values over temporary ones in your day-to-day decisions?
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### *Closing Prayer...*

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our firm foundation, the unshakable rock upon which we can build our lives. We confess that too often, we rely on appearances, temporary fixes, or our own strength instead of grounding ourselves in Your Word. Forgive us for the times we've heard Your truth but failed to act on it. Lord, help us not to be like the house built on sand, but to be faithful doers of Your Word, living out Your teachings in every area of our lives. When the storms of life come—and we know they will—strengthen us to stand firm, knowing that our hope and security are in You alone.

Lord, we ask for wisdom and courage to examine our hearts and rebuild any areas where our foundation is weak. Teach us to value eternal things over temporary ones, so that when the storms strip away the surface, what remains is a life rooted in Your truth. Guide us in every decision and fill us with Your Spirit to live in a way that glorifies You. May our faith shine through as a testimony to others of the strength and peace found in walking with You. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

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### Winter Schedule Change

**Next week:** December 11th - Christmas Gathering. Please bring a \$5-10 gift for a gift exchange.

**Winter Break - No Discipleship Wednesdays:** 12/18, 12/25, 1/1, & 1/8. We will resume 1/15th.

\*New Weekly Study Guides will be available during Winter Break at [faith-fellowship.us/wednesday](http://faith-fellowship.us/wednesday)