

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount

The Wise Builder

Matthew 7:24-29

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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.

Matthew 7:24-29, continued

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 the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The Unwise Builder

- He ignored the teachings of Christ
- Shallowness: He over-estimated the importance of appearances
- Naïveté: He under-estimated the challenges and storms of life
- Deceived: He was falsely assured that everything was fine

1. A house must be begun

- We must choose to trust in Christ, to build our life upon Him.
- “Begin with the end in mind” – To prepare for this life, first prepare for eternity.
- The decision to trust in Christ impacts everything else in your life.
- “By the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Cor. 15:10).

The Righteousness of Christ

- **“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33)**
- **“...that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (Phil. 3:8-9).**
- **“If anyone is in Christ ... he is a new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17)**

2. A house is not built in a day

- **We need to grow in Christ**
- **“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!” (Hebrews 5:11-12)**

Four people we all meet and are

CHOLERIC

DISCIPLINED

Learn Scripture

SANQUINE

CONNECTOR

Know Leaders

PHLEGMATIC

ORGANIZED

**I can show you but
it will take a while**

MELANCHOLY

PHILOSOPHICAL

Know God

Principles of spiritual growth

- **Grow in *Grace*:** “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 3:18).
- **Grow in the *Word*:** “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation” (1 Peter 2:1).
- **Grow in *Love*:** “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Eph 4:15).

Principles of spiritual growth

- In *Fellowship*: "... grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (Eph. 2:21-22).
- In *Service*: "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty" (Matt. 13:23)

John Ortberg

“God has a plan for the me he wants me to be. It will not look exactly like his plan for anyone else, which means it will take freedom and exploration for you to learn how God wants to grow you. Spiritual growth is hand-crafted, not mass-produced. God does not do “one-size-fits-all.”

John Ortberg

“... reading the Bible or writing in a journal. That's not necessarily a bad thing. But devotional practices are not the ultimate criteria for spiritual growth. In Jesus' day, the people who would have rated highest on devotional practices would have been the scribes and the Pharisees ("I thank you, God ... that I fast twice a week; I give tithes on all I get").”

3. A house must be maintained

- The older the house the more maintenance it requires.
- The danger of a “comfortable Christianity” instead of an obedient one.
- Some additional rooms we have added on, may be built upon sand, not upon the Rock.

In Christ Alone (Natalie Grant)

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.**