

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

I think we are all familiar with the Sermon on the Mount and the teaching that Jesus did in Matthew chapters 5-7. Today's parable is the end of that teaching, where Jesus sums it all up with what people will do with His teaching that He just gave, and He likened it to something everyone (Even today) are familiar with, and that's a house.

We all live in a house or apartment or some type of structure, and we know there is usually a concrete slab that is poured before the house would be built upon it. The reason, I think Jesus makes very clear, and that's to keep a house from being destroyed during a storm or bad weather.

In Jesus' story He talks about a house being built on either sand or a solid rock. You know if you have ever been to the beach, that you can build a castle in the sand, but as soon as the water and waves hit it, it will crumble down. Also walking along the beach, you will notice some pretty large rocks, that are not moved by the waves of the sea.

So, putting it all together, after you read Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5-7; will you build your life on that solid teaching, or ignore it and try to live life your own way?

For me, I know for years I tried living life my own way, and I always ended up crumbling under the pressure of life and storms that would hit. But since I have been with Jesus, those storms and issues of life still hit, but I don't crumble like I used to, because my faith, hope and trust are now built upon Jesus Christ and His word.

But one thing I want you to notice in Jesus' teaching in today's devotional verses, and that is, that it is the same storm that hit both of the houses. It wasn't any strong, longer or more violent for one house verses the other one. It was the same storm.

Think about things happened even today. The Corona Virus for one example, is the same virus that will affect both believer and non believer. It doesn't care what color you are on how much money you have or don't have, or how spiritual or none spiritual you are. It's the same virus (storm). Even Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount:

† **Matthew 5:45b** *for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

Both believers and non believers will get the Virus, and there will be both who will die from it as well. I pray that more will live through it than die, but to be honest, it will happen to both. The only difference is when the storm hits, be it the Corona Virus, you lose your job, or a loved one dies for whatever reason, or you been diagnosed with cancer, or what ever storm hits, are you really rooted and grounded on the solid rock, or are you skimming the surface of the rock, knowing the rock is there, but building on something else next to it instead?

† **Matthew 7:26** *But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand*

† **Proverbs 14:7** *Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.*