

BUILDING ON THE NARROW WAY



DIGGING DEEP TO LAY OUR FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK ...

PART ONE

BUILDING A SPIRITUAL HOUSE THAT WILL NOT FALL (MATTHEW 7:24-29)

1. The wise person hears and does the words of Jesus and so builds on the rock, 7:24.

- (Matthew 7:24 ESV) Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

A. No exceptions: Everyone who hears the words of Jesus and does them will be like the wise man and build on the rock.

B. Hearing and doing the words of Jesus is building on the rock.

2. This house will not fall when the storm beats against it, 7:25.

- (Matthew 7:25 ESV) 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.

Fall ... πίπτω [pipto] – to suffer ruin, defeat.

A. The storm will come and beat on the house.

Beat ... to fall against; to encounter something with great force or violence.

B. This house will not fall and so will confirm that it was built on the rock.

3. The foolish person hears but does not do the words of Jesus and so builds on the sand, 7:26.

- (Matthew 7:26 ESV) 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.

A. No exceptions: Everyone who only hears the words of Jesus and does not do them will be like the foolish man who builds on the sand.

B. Hearing and not doing is building on the sand.

4. This house will fall when the storm beats against it, 7:27.

- (Matthew 7:27 ESV) 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.”

Great ... – remarkable or out of the ordinary in

degree, magnitude, or effect.

5. Jesus' teaching on the wise and foolish builders astonished the crowds, 7:28-29.

- (Matthew 7:28-29 ESV) And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Astonished ... to be utterly amazed; to be so astounded as to nearly lose one's mental composure.

PART TWO

BUILDING A SPIRITUAL HOUSE THAT WILL NOT BE SHAKEN (LUKE 6:46-49 ESV)

1. To build a house that will not be shaken the builder must examine his life in view of Jesus' question.

- (Luke 6:46 ESV) Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?

A. Lord, Lord is a reverent, emphatic, even emotional acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord.

Lord, Lord ... master – κύριος [kurios] ... he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; the possessor and disposer of a thing; a title of honor and reverence.

B. Jesus was targeting a specific group—Why do you ...

The “you” were religious people who were following him and hearing his words but were not acting on his words and taking the proper course of action. Their profession of “Lord, Lord” was nonsensical.

Do ... ποιέω [poieo] – to do (act); to carry out or perform an action or course of action.

Excursus: This is not a new issue ...

We understand Jesus' urgency and learn the character of the people to whom Jesus directs his words from the context. This is the end of a very long sermon in which Jesus has repeatedly listed the failures and sins of those who hear and do not do ... blind people who thought they could see.

Jesus was urgently warning them because they were oblivious to the reality of their lives in view of the coming judgment of God. The imminent danger they were in prompted Jesus to ask –

DIAGNOSTICS: WHY DO YOU CALL ME LORD, LORD, AND NOT DO WHAT I TELL YOU?

- I. The non-doer does not follow Jesus into a life of the mercy and forgiveness of God and remains judgmental and unforgiving.
 - (Luke 6:37–38 ESV) **Judge not**, and you will not be judged; **condemn not**, and you will not be condemned; **forgive**, and you will be forgiven; 38 **give**, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. **For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.**
- II. The non-doer is a blind man (or woman) who thinks that he sees and so is able to lead others.
 - (Luke 6:39 ESV) He also told them a parable: **“Can a blind man lead a blind man?** Will they not both fall into a pit?”
 - (John 9:40–41 ESV) Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, **“Are we also blind?”** 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; **but now that you say, ‘We see,’** your guilt remains.
- III. The non-doer is a critical condemner who is deceived by his pride and believes himself to be above his teacher.
 - (Luke 6:40 ESV) **A disciple is not above his teacher**, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- IV. The non-doer is a hypocrite who thinks he clearly sees the faults of others, but whose vision is blocked by the glaring sins in his own life.
 - (Luke 6:41–42 ESV) **Why** do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 **How can you say to your brother,** ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, **first take the log out of your own eye**, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.
- V. The non-doer is self-righteous and does not realize his sinfulness and his need for a doctor.
 - (Matthew 9:12–13 ESV) But when he heard it, he said, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician,** but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ **For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

End Excursus

2. Everyone who comes to Jesus, hears his words and acts upon them digs deep and lays the foundation on the rock, 6:47-48a.

- (Luke 6:47–48a ESV) Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, **I will show you what he is like:** 48 he is like a man building a house, **who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.**
- A. Three necessary conditions are met by the person who is like the man who builds on the rock.
 - i. He is a hearer and doer and so he comes to Jesus, hears his words, and does them.
 - ii. Doing Jesus’ words is to ... ποιέω [poieo] – to do, act; to carry out or perform an action or course of action.
- B. Meeting these particular conditions results in a specific course of action—The person digs deep and lays his foundation on the rock.
- C. **Principle learned from the text:** Digging deep is hearing and doing the words of God involving the whole heart—not merely intense study that only involves the mind.

3. Digging deep is a supernatural dynamic by which the obedient follower of Jesus in his hearing and doing of Jesus’ words is led by the Spirit and is taken beyond his mere human ways and thoughts into the deep things of God.

- (Daniel 2:21–22 ESV) He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22 **he reveals deep and hidden things;** he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

Deep ... deep things, deep mysteries; a mystery perceived as a great mysterious depth.

- (Romans 11:33–34 ESV) **Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!** How **unsearchable** are his judgments and how **inscrutable** his ways! 34 **“For who has known the mind of the Lord,** or who has been his counselor?”
- (Psalm 139:6 ESV) **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.**
- (Job 42:3 ESV) ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, **things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.**

- (Psalm 36:6 ESV) Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.
- (Ecclesiastes 7:23–24 ESV) All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me. 24 That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?
- (Romans 8:26 ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

A. Digging deep, aka hearing Jesus and doing his words, is experiencing the truth of God in the presence of God and beyond our mere human ability.

B. Digging deep is being led by the Spirit of God past ourselves into the depths of everything that is true about God—his love, holiness, wisdom, power, judgment, omniscience, omnipresence, sovereignty, providence, everything ...

C. The fruit of digging deep is knowing God.

- (John 17:3 ESV) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4. This house will not be shaken when the storm of judgment breaks out against it, 6:48b.

- (Luke 6:48b ESV) And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

A. The stability of the house will be tested by the waters of judgment.

B. The house will not only not fall, but the storm will not even be able to shake it.

Shake it... to upset; to disturb the balance or stability of; be distressed, be unsettled; be swayed.

C. Standing the test of the storm provides assurance to the builder that it has been well built.

5. The non-doer will build a house and that house will fall because he refuses to examine his life in view of Jesus' question, 6:46.

- (Luke 6:46 ESV) Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?

This person never comes to grips with the damning problem of being a hearer only of Jesus' words. So he remains blind to the reality of his precarious status before God in view of the coming judgment.

6. The person who hears but does not act upon the words of Jesus builds a house without a foundation, 6:49a.

- (Luke 6:49a ESV) But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.

A. Back to the context ... He calls Jesus “master, master” but only hears the words and does not follow the recommended course of action

B. This person refuses to heed Jesus' instructions and builds without a foundation.

C. His pride defeats him as he believes that even without acting on Christ's words and laying a foundation that his spiritual house will withstand the judgment of a holy God.

7. A house built without a foundation immediately falls in the judgment, 6:49b.

- (Luke 6:49 ESV) When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.

A. The house falls immediately.

B. The house is ruined to a remarkable degree.

CONCLUSION: Running the diagnostics ... let's find out where we live ...