

# Matthew 7:24-27

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-7/matthew-724-27/>

*Continuing His thoughts on the Day of Judgment, Jesus compares two men and their choices. The man who takes His teachings to heart is like someone who builds a house that will be able to endure the coming storm. The man who does not take His teachings to heart is like someone who builds a house that will be destroyed by the coming storm.*

The parallel account of this teaching is found in Luke 6:47-49.

Jesus ends his sermon proclaiming His kingdom platform to His disciples with a parable. It once again reflects the binary choice between consequences of life and death.

*Therefore* (in summation of all that He has been teaching) *everyone* (Christ's offer is available to any and all) *who hears these words of Mine* (the things Jesus has been teaching) *and acts on them* is *wise*. Jesus did not say *these words* to make men learned. He said them to make men *wise*. *A wise man* does not simply understand truth. *A wise man acts* and *does* according to that understanding. He is what James describes as "an effectual doer":

"One who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed (Makarios) in what he does."

(James 1:25)

The one *who hears and acts on Jesus's words* may be compared to a *wise man who built his house on the rock*. A *house* is a place of dwelling. It has personal significance and particular interest for the *man* who lives in it. It not only holds all of his possessions; a man's *house* reflects his social station. Within Jesus's parable, *his house*, signifies a man's life and all that *man* holds dear.

Architectural structures were (and are) *built on* foundations of solid *rock*. Solid rock is not easily moved. It provides stability for the walls and roof of the building. Without a rocky foundation, over time the ground will shift, and the *house* built on it will crack, break apart, and *fall*. To avoid calamity, *a wise man* builds *his house on* a foundation of *rock*. As foundations of rock are to houses, so are the *words* and teachings of Jesus to *everyone's* lives. If the *house* of our lives is *built on the* foundation of Jesus, the storms and trials we face will not destroy *it* or cause *it* to *fall* (2 Corinthians 4:7-12).

But while Jesus's metaphor applies to *the floods* we face in this life, it speaks directly to the day of judgment. Jesus is continuing His thought from the preceding verses about those who will not enter the kingdom, thereby will not gain the benefits and rewards of the kingdom. The scene He depicts in this parable is an obvious allusion to God's judgment in the days of Noah (Genesis 6:11-13, 7:17-24). *And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed*

*against that house.* When God judges our life (like a flood hitting a house), the only houses that will *not fall* are ones that have *been built and founded on the rock* of Jesus Christ's words.

Jesus contrasts the *house of a wise man* with the *house of a foolish man*. The difference is not the *house*, so much as the foundation beneath it. This too alludes to what Christ has been saying about external works of righteousness, which are visible to all like a house's roof and walls, and internal righteousness and integrity of the heart, which is invisible to everyone but God, like the house's foundation. *Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* Sand is a terrible foundation. It is always moving and is easily washed away in a flood. And when it moves it causes whatever is *built on it* to crack and *fall*. *The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell.* Jesus adds for emphasis—*and great was its fall*. The fool's *house* was not just damaged or lost a wing. It was no more.

Nearly every aspect of the house of the *wise man* and the house of the *foolish man* is identical. Their houses are the same, the rains that fall on them are the same, the floods that rise against them are the same, the winds that blow against them are the same. There are only two differences—their foundations and their endurance.

The only thing distinguishing the *wise man* and the *foolish man* in this life is whether or not they *act on the words of Jesus*. They both heard His *words*, but only a *wise man* takes them to heart and lives them with integrity. *A foolish man hears Jesus's words but does not act on them.* He is like the "hearers" who James writes about, those "who delude themselves":

"In humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was." (James 1:21-24)

Throughout Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, He contrasts *wise* living and *foolish* living many times.

- The *wise man* will have been poor in spirit, mourned, gentle, hungered for harmony with God, been merciful, pure in heart, a peacemaker, and been persecuted by the world for his righteousness. The *foolish man* will have been full of himself, cheerfully naïve, demanding, disgusted by God's righteousness, judgmental, lacking integrity, a troublemaker, and persecutor of the faithful (Matthew 5:3-11).
- The *wise man* will not have harbored anger, lust, or dishonesty in his heart. The *foolish man* will have harbored anger, lust, and deceit in his heart (Matthew 5:22, Matthew 5:28, Matt 5:33-37).
- The *wise man* will have turned the other cheek, gone the extra mile, loved and prayed for his enemy. The *foolish man* will have paid back his insults, begrudged and shirked his duties, and despised those who did not love him (Matthew 5:38-47).

- The *wise man* will have acted righteously from the secret place of the heart to please His Father in heaven. The *foolish man* will have openly strutted his righteousness acts hypocritically to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1-6, Matthew 6:16-18).
- The *wise man* will have prayed to his Father in Heaven and asked God to forgive him as he forgives others. The *foolish man* will have offered empty words to God (Matthew 6:7-13).
- The *wise man* will have invested his treasure and heart in heaven. The *foolish man* will have invested his treasure and heart on earth (Matthew 6:19-20).
- The *wise man* will have sought God's kingdom and His righteousness by faith. The *foolish man* will have spent his days worrying about his life (Matthew 6:25-33).
- The *wise man* will have shown mercy and forgiveness. The *foolish man* will have judged other people (Matthew 6:13-14; 7:1-2).
- The *wise man* will have treated others as he wanted to be treated. The *foolish man* will have lived with two standards, expecting others to treat him well, while treating others poorly (Matthew 7:12).
- The *wise man* will have entered by the small gate along the narrow way. The *foolish man* will have entered by the wide gate along the way that is broad (Matthew 7:13-14).
- The *wise man* will have built his house upon the rock of Jesus's words. The *foolish man* will have built his house on the sands of the world (Matthew 7:24-27).

In the next life, from the Day of Judgment onward, the thing that will distinguish the *wise man* from the fool is their reward. Their rewards are determined by whether they acted *on* or did *not act on the words of Jesus*.

- The *wise man* will be granted the kingdom of heaven. The *foolish man's* kingdom will have been swept away (Matthew 5:3,10).
- The *wise man* will receive comfort, an inheritance, satisfaction, and mercy. The *foolish man* will receive no such comfort, no such inheritance, no such satisfaction, and no mercy (Matthew 5:4-7).
- The *wise man* will see God's face and be called His son. The *foolish man* will not see God's face and be without distinction (Matthew 5:8-9).
- The *wise man* will be great in God's kingdom. The *foolish man* will be small in God's kingdom (Matthew 5:19).

- The *wise man* will be rewarded by His Father in Heaven. The *foolish man's* reward will already have been received on earth and used up (Matthew 6:1, Matt 6:2, Matt 6:4, Matt 6:5, Matt 6:6, Matt 6:16, Matt 6:18).
- The *wise man* will have treasure and his heart in heaven. The *foolish man's* treasure and heart will have rusted and been eaten by moths (Matthew 6:19-20).
- The *wise man* will have entered into life and its great rewards through the narrow gate. The *foolish man* will have entered into destruction of his opportunities in the kingdom through the wide gate (Matthew 7:13-14).
- The *wise man's house* will remain standing and his work will have endured *the floods* and fires of Christ's judgment. The *foolish man's house* will have suffered a *great fall* and his work will be consumed by *the floods* and fires of Christ's judgment (Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

### **Biblical Text**

**Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.**