

Matthew 7:24-27 *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.*

We have come to Jesus' conclusion to His Sermon on the Mount – his final illustration, and it is a most memorable and sobering one. We will take two messages to consider – first the foundation that deceives, and then the foundation that overcomes. In this final portion of His sermon Jesus has been reiterating the critical choices of heaven or hell that face each of humanity, using a variety of illustrations. These final words use the familiar example of a house's foundation on sand or rock.

THE SCRIPTURAL “FOUNDATION”

Isaiah 8:13-15 It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught.

Isaiah 28:16-17a Therefore, thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level.”

Romans 9:30-33 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” (Is. 8:14)

1 Peter 2:4-8 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very cornerstone,” and, “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:10 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. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – 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. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

TAKEAWAYS

1. Building a life on Jesus is akin to building a house on a firm foundation of rock

2. Building a life on anything or anyone else is akin to building a house on shifting sand
3. Many will “stumble over” and “be offended by” Jesus as the cornerstone
4. Those who build on Jesus alone will never be disappointed or shaken
5. The only trustworthy and stable foundation of life is Jesus Christ as Lord
6. Any other foundation of life is doomed to “stumbling” and “great fall”

THE FOUNDATION THAT DECEIVES

The man building on sand basically WANTS the same as the man building on rock

The house built on sand basically LOOKS the same as the one built on sand

The storms that beats down are basically the SAME for both men and houses

The only basic difference, in the metaphor, is the FOUNDATION

10 POPULAR LIFE PHILOSOPHIES OF SAND

1. I'm doing the best I can
2. As long as I do better than most
3. All roads lead to heaven, for God is love
4. The one who dies with the most toys wins
5. Ultimate happiness is found in serving and helping my fellow man

10 POPULAR LIFE PHILOSOPHIES OF SAND

6. Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die
7. Carpe Diem (seize the day)
8. Reducing to the utmost my desires, brings me closer to the gods
9. Coexist
10. Love is all you need

THE DECEIVER WHO URGES FOR SAND

2 Corinthians 11:14 Satan disguises himself as an angel of light

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith ...

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

WHAT I MUST AFFIRM

I am a target for Satan's deception of building on sand

I am protected as I build my life on the rock of Jesus as Lord