

## The House Built Upon the Rock

### Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> “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:

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> “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:

<sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

### Luke 6:46-49

<sup>46</sup> “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?

<sup>47</sup> Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

<sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

<sup>49</sup> But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

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### Discussion Questions: The House Built Upon the Rock

Jesus concludes the sermon on the mount with this excellent comparison, explaining the benefits of putting His words into practice. Matthew and Luke both describe the parable of the man who built his house upon the rock and the man who built his house upon the sand. Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49.

- 1) Have someone read: (outlined in green) Luke 6:46.
  - a) **Why is Jesus calling out to the listeners on the mount, asking them, “Why do you call out to me when you don’t do the things I say you should be doing?”** Calling out to the Lord for help is a familiar request the Lord hears. They probably respected Him and His teachings but did not act on them. Jesus knows they either forget, ignore or reject His teachings.
  - b) **What does it mean to act on His sayings?** This point is at the very heart of this lesson. It is not enough to call ourselves “Christians,” attend church, and read the bible. The intent to “act” does not match the behavior. Acting on His word demonstrates to Him that you not only heard His word but have made a personal decision to implement and put his word into action.
- 2) Have someone read: (outlined in red) Matthew 7:24 and Luke 6:47-48a.
  - a) **What does it mean to hear Jesus’ sayings?** Hearing a pleasure book being read to you is an example of passive listening. Sitting in a classroom with a pen and paper ready to take notes is an example of active listening. Hearing Jesus’ teachings is not enough. People must implement His words into their lives and then act on them. Putting Jesus’ words into practice creates a solid foundation for living and making decisions. People will observe you by your actions and decide for themselves if you are who you say you are.
  - b) **What does it mean for someone to build his house on a rock?** The house, just like a person’s spiritual strength, can be strengthened or weakened throughout its life. The person who heeds Jesus’ words has a strong foundation. The same is valid with a person’s foundation. When someone’s foundation is firm and solid, that person can take on additional burdens or challenges throughout life and ride out the storm.
  - c) **Who represents the rock?** Jesus represents the rock. He is our solid support. A pillar of strength to draw from when we need guidance, wisdom, and assurance, we are doing what is right in His eyes.
  - d) **Who do you represent?** We each represent a house. Houses are made weak and strong. Without a rock and a strong foundation, no house is immune to the life’s problems.
- 3) **What is the importance of a strong foundation?** The building’s strength lies in its foundation. The main purpose of any foundation is to support the entire

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structure. The foundation is the key to building and creating a successful and long-lasting structure.

a) **Using the “rock” as a metaphor, how do we prepare for a solid physical foundation for a house? (What are the steps):** The foundation of a building has a specific sequence of events. (1) The first step is to inspect the soil's condition. (2) Excavate a trench or dig to bedrock into accommodating the footings. (3) Install reinforced rebar. (4) Build the footings. (5) Prepare the concrete. (6) Pour the concrete. (7) Layout the foundation and slab. (8) Inspect the foundation.

b) **What are some critical elements to building a solid foundation on Jesus Christ?** If our goal is to have Jesus Christ as our foundation, there are several vital steps to follow; however, they are not as stringent to require them to be in a specific order. (1) The first step is to inspect and evaluate your person's spiritual level with Jesus Christ. (2) Faith. We must put our trust in God. (3) Have family and Godly friendships. (4) Obedience to God demonstrates a person's commitment and outward sign of having a deep and authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. (5) Finances. Be a good steward over the Lord's finances that has been provided to you. Live within your means and manage His money responsibly. (6) Food and Fitness. Our bodies are God's living temple; the Holy Spirit resides in you. Maintain your body with a healthy spiritual discipline. Asking for forgiveness of our sins, walking with the Lord, and things like the serenity prayer, and many others are important but are building blocks on top of the foundation. The foundation needs to be established before a deep meaningful relationship can exist.

4) **Have someone read: (outlined in blue) Matthew 7:25 and Luke 6:48b. Think of a lighthouse.**

a) **How can a lighthouse withstand constant powerful waves beating on its doorstep?** Lighthouses are known for being built on rock. The wise man's house has a strong foundation and can withstand life's obstacles and challenges. The winds are similar to the waves. They blew and beat on the house. So did the stream. It, too, beat vehemently against the house. And yet, the house stood firm.

b) **How does this compare to a person's life with obstacles and challenges who has a strong foundation with God?** No person can escape the storms of life. The person who hears Jesus' words and acts on His sayings is prepared for judgment and will withstand the storm. Both demonstrate life's obstacles and challenges everyone faces. Yet the house stood firm and was not shaken, for it was founded on a rock foundation.

5) **Have someone read: (outlined in black) Matthew 7:26 and Luke 6:49a.**

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- a) **What happens to a physical sand-based foundation when the rain comes?** As water descends through the sand, the sand and water start to mix, and the underground slowly shifts and moves. As more water is added, the slimy substance becomes more diluted in water. The sand can no longer hold its form and starts to flow wherever the water takes it. At this point, the foundation begins to give way. The weight of the house can no longer be sustained; ultimately, the foundation is unstable, and the house collapses on itself.
  - b) **What happens to someone who does not build a strong spiritual foundation?** When someone does not build a strong spiritual foundation, their soul becomes susceptible to persuasion, allowing sin to be entered easier. Satan uses temptations to conquer people's souls. There are several reasons someone does not build or does not want to make a solid spiritual foundation. Here are some main reasons in no particular order, but they may be very familiar. Money, Sex, Pride, Envy, and Lust; See the in-depth study for a more comprehensive explanation on each. In essence the person turns away from God.
  - c) **What are the reasons why someone loses their faith?** The most common search has been the death of a close relative or friend. Other events include stress, depression, illness, uncertainty, trauma, betrayal, fear, and loneliness.
- 6) Have someone read: (outlined in purple) Matthew 7:27 and Luke 6:49b.
- a) **What happens to the house made on sand?** Both Matthew and Luke conclude Jesus' parable of the man who built his house upon the sand. Both describe a violent storm, with rain, winds, and a stream that beats vehemently against the house. A foundation made on sand would be no match for the storm. Matthew and Luke conclude with the destruction of the house and how great the destruction was.
  - b) **What happens to someone who builds his house on sand and does not build his house on a rock?** This storm is not to be taken lightly. The person who hears Jesus' words and does not act on His sayings is the foolish man and will be destroyed in the storm of judgment. This story is not merely about choosing a location to build a house on solid rock versus a house built on sand. It is a metaphor for choosing to hear Jesus's words and putting them into action. Without having Jesus as our rock, life's problems and difficult situations intensifies the stress, depression, illness, uncertainty, trauma, betrayal, fear, and loneliness. Failure to do so will result in the living for all eternity in a ceaseless storm. How great that storm will be.
- 7) **What do you think it means to be a wise man?** Student's opinions.

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**8) What are the characteristics the world considers to be a wise man?**

They educate themselves are they are always learning

They are disciplined

They admit their mistakes and learn from their experiences

They are patient

They are observant and open-minded

They take instruction humbly

They can handle rejection and failure

They know they can only control the controllable

They are guided by wisdom

They know their priorities

They are trustworthy and steadfast

They take calculated risks and accept change

They make the most of their relationships and give fantastic advice to others.

They don't live beyond their means.

**9) What are the characteristics the Bible considers to be a wise man?** Not a big surprise. Most of the definitions come from Proverbs. Instead of writing out the verses, it is better received when they are looked up from the bible. Have someone read them: Proverbs 29:11; Proverbs 21:20; Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 1:1-33; James 1:5; Proverbs 29:7; Romans 14:1-23; 1 John 4:1; "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. Matthew 7:24-25, Luke 6:46.

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## Discussion Questions: The House Built Upon the Rock

Jesus concludes the sermon on the mount with this excellent comparison, explaining the benefits of putting His words into practice. Matthew and Luke both describe the parable of the man who built his house upon the rock and the man who built his house upon the sand. Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49.

- 1) Have someone read: (outlined in green) Luke 6:46.
  - a) **Why is Jesus calling out to the listeners on the mount, asking them, "Why do you call out to me when you don't do the things I say you should be doing?"** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) **What does it mean to act on His sayings?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Have someone read: (outlined in red) Matthew 7:24 and Luke 6:47-48a.
  - a) **What does it mean to hear Jesus' sayings?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) **What does it mean for someone to build his house on a rock?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c) **Who represents the rock?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d) **Who do you represent? And Why?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) **What is the importance of a strong foundation?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - a) **Using the "rock" as a metaphor, how do we prepare for a solid physical foundation for a house? (What are the steps):**
    - i) \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii) \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii) \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv) \_\_\_\_\_
    - v) \_\_\_\_\_

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vi) \_\_\_\_\_

vii) \_\_\_\_\_

b) **What are some critical elements to building a solid foundation on Jesus Christ?**

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

iv) \_\_\_\_\_

v) \_\_\_\_\_

vi) \_\_\_\_\_

4) Have someone read: (outlined in blue) Matthew 7:25 and Luke 6:48. Think of a lighthouse.

a) **How can a lighthouse withstand constant powerful waves beating on its doorstep?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) **How does this compare to a person's life with obstacles and challenges who has a strong foundation with God?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Have someone read: (outlined in black) Matthew 7:26 and Luke 6:49a.

a) **What happens to a physical sand-based foundation when the rain comes?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) **What happens to someone who does not build a strong spiritual foundation?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) **What are the reasons why someone loses their faith?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Have someone read: (outlined in purple) Matthew 7:27 and Luke 6:49b.

a) **What happens to the house made on sand?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Discussion Questions: The House Built Upon the Rock

b) What happens to someone who builds his house on sand and does not build his house on a rock? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) What do you think it means to be a wise man? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8) What are the characteristics the world considers to be a wise man?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

iv) \_\_\_\_\_

v) \_\_\_\_\_

vi) \_\_\_\_\_

vii) \_\_\_\_\_

viii) \_\_\_\_\_

ix) \_\_\_\_\_

x) \_\_\_\_\_

9) What are the characteristics the Bible considers to be a wise man?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

iii) \_\_\_\_\_

iv) \_\_\_\_\_

v) \_\_\_\_\_

vi) \_\_\_\_\_

vii) \_\_\_\_\_

viii) \_\_\_\_\_

ix) \_\_\_\_\_

x) \_\_\_\_\_



## The House Built Upon the Rock Quiz

1. What did the wise man build his house upon?
  - a. The rock
  - b. The water
  - c. The sand
  - d. The river
2. What did the foolish man build his house upon?
  - a. The rock
  - b. Jesus
  - c. The sand
  - d. The foundation
3. Who represents the rock?
  - a. The pastor
  - b. Jesus
  - c. Wise men
  - d. Foolish men
4. Who do you symbolize in the parable?
  - a. The rock
  - b. The house
  - c. The sand
  - d. The wise builder
5. Who told the parable of the wise and foolish builder?
  - a. Matthew
  - b. Jesus
  - c. Luke
  - d. A (Matthew) and B (Luke)
6. Finish this scripture. "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. A foolish man who built his house on the sand
  - b. An honorable man who tells the truth and follows Jesus
  - c. A wise man who built his house on the rock
  - d. A man who follows my commandments
7. What does it mean to act on Jesus' teachings?
  - a. To put Jesus' words into practice
  - b. Someone who knows all the right answers
  - c. Someone who reads the bible every day
  - d. Go to church every Sunday
8. What does someone have to do to be like the wise man?
  - a. Go to church and repent our sins
  - b. Hear Jesus' sayings and do them
  - c. Be baptized and follow Jesus' words
  - d. Tithe 10% of our income

9. What keeps the house from collapsing in the storm?
- a. The rock
  - b. The stream
  - c. The wise man
  - d. The sand
10. What happens to the person who built his house upon the sand?
- a. We will be strong and confident
  - b. We will be weak and fail
  - c. We will survive the storm
  - d. Luck will be on our side
11. What are some critical elements to building a solid foundation on Jesus Christ? Circle all that apply
- a. Having faith
  - b. Walking with the Lord
  - c. Be obedient to God
  - d. Have family and Godly friendships
  - e. Learning the serenity prayer
  - f. Be a good steward over God's finances he has provided to you
  - g. Maintain your body with a healthy spiritual discipline
12. What happens to someone who does not build a strong spiritual foundation?
- a. They will be ok, God loves everyone
  - b. They will become susceptible to persuasion and sin
  - c. If they are a good person, they will still enter heaven
  - d. Nothing. I don't break any laws so that's good enough.
13. What are some temptations Satan uses for someone who does not build a solid spiritual foundation? Circle all that apply
- a. Obedience
  - b. Lust
  - c. Green lights when driving
  - d. Envy
  - e. Sex
  - f. Luck
  - g. Pride
  - h. Money
14. What does the floods, winds and storm represent?
- a. Life's problems
  - b. Celebration
  - c. Parties
  - d. Good times are ahead

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1. What did the wise man build his house upon?
  - a. **The rock Matthew 7:24**
  - b. The water
  - c. The sand
  - d. The river
2. What did the foolish man build his house upon?
  - a. The rock
  - b. Jesus
  - c. **The sand Matthew 7:26**
  - d. The foundation
3. Who represents the rock?
  - a. The pastor
  - b. **Jesus Matthew 16:18**
  - c. Wise men
  - d. Foolish men
4. Who do you symbolize in the parable?
  - a. The rock
  - b. **The house Matthew 7:25 Gill's Exposition of the entire bible**
  - c. The sand
  - d. The wise builder
5. Who told the parable of the wise and foolish builder?
  - a. Matthew
  - b. **Jesus Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46-49 (It's in RED!)**
  - c. Luke
  - d. A (Matthew) and B (Luke)
6. Finish this scripture. "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. A foolish man who built his house on the sand
  - b. An honorable man who tells the truth and follows Jesus
  - c. **A wise man who built his house on the rock Matthew 7:24**
  - d. A man who follows my commandments
7. What does it mean to act on Jesus' teachings?
  - a. **To put Jesus' words into practice Matthew 7:24 Luke 6:47**
  - b. Someone who knows all the right answers
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  - a. Go to church and repent our sins
  - b. **Hear Jesus' sayings and do them Matthew 7:24**
  - c. Be baptized and follow Jesus' words
  - d. Tithe 10% of our income

9. What keeps the house from collapsing in the storm?
- The rock Luke 6:48**
  - The stream
  - The wise man
  - The sand
10. What happens to the person who built his house upon the sand?
- We will be strong and confident
  - We will be weak and fail Student/Leader Guide Q:5b**
  - We will survive the storm
  - Luck will be on our side
11. What are some critical elements to building a solid foundation on Jesus Christ? Circle all that apply
- Having faith Student Leader Guide Q3b**
  - Walking with the Lord
  - Be obedient to God Student Leader Guide Q3b**
  - Have family and Godly friendships Student Leader Guide Q3b**
  - Learning the serenity prayer
  - Be a good steward over God's finances he has provided to you Student Leader Guide Q3b**
  - Maintain your body with a healthy spiritual discipline Student Leader Guide Q3b**
12. What happens to someone who does not build a strong spiritual foundation?
- They will be ok, God loves everyone
  - They will become susceptible to persuasion and sin Student Leader Guide Q5c**
  - If they are a good person, they will still enter heaven
  - Nothing. I don't break any laws so that's good enough.
13. What are some temptations Satan uses for someone who does not build a solid spiritual foundation? Circle all that apply
- Obedience
  - Lust sin Student Leader Guide Q5c**
  - Green lights when driving
  - Sex sin Student Leader Guide Q5c**
  - Luck
  - Pride sin Student Leader Guide Q5c**

d. Envy  
Q5c

h. Money sin **Student Leader Guide**

14. What does the floods, winds and storm represent?

- a. Life's problems sin **Student Leader Guide Q6b**
- b. Celebration
- c. Parties
- d. Good times are ahead