

Parable of Two Builders
Matthew 7:24-27
12-16-18 AM

Matthew's record of the life of Jesus includes three chapters we call the Sermon on the Mount. In a sense, it represents an index or preview of what was to come in the book of Matthew; most of the teachings there are referenced later in the book. It becomes with descriptions of the characteristics of the Kingdom and citizens who will be in it; it describes the nature of the law of the kingdom and righteousness, and finally it concludes with two paths people will take. The very last statement is a parable that represents two Categories of Hearers; those who build on the Rock, and those who build on sand.

Our lives are like houses. In our lives a foundation is laid (those principles which govern all of our life). From there walls go up to separate us from the world, or to let in things we want. A roof shields us from the weather. A house built with a foundation that is rock is harder to build on; one must work hard and fashion the home to the contours of a rock. But it is a stronger foundation, and it raises the house above the storms of life. In contrast, a house built on sand is easy to build, but it has no firm foundation. It can be moved and destroyed easily, since it is at the level of the storms of life.

In life, all people will face (the same) storms (1 Corinthians 10:13). In the parable it was the same storm that hit both homes. This parable is about life now, and the things that we experience now. Jesus said His words were the rock; men are wise/foolish even before they meet the word. The word does not make them foolish, but it reveals our natures; it is a mirror of Truth (James 1).

So what makes one wise? We are told that it is the Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:5-7), but we also can see in this parable that wisdom is to be able to look to what is coming; this is a realization of the importance of truth. What makes one foolish? From this parable it could be defined as choosing the easy path (Proverbs 14:16) or not considering the future.

What about the Storms of Life? Storms come in different ways; it might be the difficulties of life itself (health, death, sickness). But it can also be the consequences of the decisions we make, or the evil works of men. The big point is that it is too late to build in the storm; the building of a life of faith must precede the storm.

If you want to be wise, here is what you must be and do. First, be doers of the Law, not hearers only (Luke 11:28, Romans 2:13, James 1:22-25). Second, be mindful of what is in store in life (Ecclesiastes 12:1, Revelation 22:12, Galatians 6:7-9). Realize that the future holds things that will be wonderful and difficult. Finally, understand that being patient has rewards (John 13:17). In this point consider that there are rewards here AND later.