

Bible Class – the Parables of Jesus

21st May 2026

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

Matthew 7:21-27



Passage for Consideration:

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

The Lord Jesus in this parable is equating the keeping of his sayings with doing the Will of his Father, and moreover, compares this diligent activity with building a house upon a firm foundation. The building and development of one's character and personality will only be of sufficient quality if it begins with the right beginning, the right foundation. That is by keeping the sayings of Jesus.

The Lord Jesus here observes, that some seem to be under a false illusion, that their personality, is good enough for God, if they make a show of looking religious, and calling on the name of God, talking about Jesus a lot, but not bothering to actually take any notice of what Jesus says. *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven... Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Jesus warns of this foolish behaviour – people creating their own brand of religion which is suitable and convenient for them, but bears no relation to what Jesus actually teaches at all. This he

describes as those who cry Lord Lord, but Jesus in the day of judgement will not recognise them. See Matthew 25:11-12, Luke 6:46, Luke 13:25 as examples of this. The Apostle Paul takes up this point and describes it thus: Titus 1:16: *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

There are examples in Scripture of this where individuals literally have prophesied and done what they thought were great works, convinced themselves that they were prophets of the Lord, and doing a great work, when in truth they were deceivers, and being deceived, wasting their own time and everybody else's – Balaam in Numbers 24:4, claiming the name of God, Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah in 1 Kings 22:11 who announced "Thus saith the Lord..." when God had not said anything of the sort. In Acts 19:13-15 there were Jews who claimed the power of healing in the name of Jesus but were liars, but with all these examples, the Apostle Paul points out that anyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus but does not consistently keep his sayings and teachings, that they are in fact no different - 1 Corinthians 13:1-2: *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, [Greek – agape- sacrificial love] I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*

Claiming the name of Jesus, but living a life in practice in opposition to what Jesus teaches is building a personality or character which is very superficial and flimsy.

Jesus in this parable makes the keeping of his sayings as the central lesson. *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

These are some of the sayings of the Lord Jesus, which even his disciples realised and confessed that they were hard sayings – not easy to keep in practice.

These sayings of mine:

- Matthew 7:7-8: Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ...
- Matthew 7:13-14: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, ...
- Matthew 5:3-12:
- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are ye, when men shall ... persecute you, ... Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:
- Matthew 5:28-32: ... whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
- Matthew 6:14-15: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- Matthew 6:19-21: Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ...
- Matthew 12:50: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.
- Luke 11:28: blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.
- John 13:17: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
- John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- John 15:10: If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love;
- John 15:14: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

It is plain and obvious by those who do try to keep these saying that they require a huge amount of effort. No wonder Jesus likens it to building a house upon a Rock. Every single piece of building material every brick, stone and section of timber has to be carried up onto the Rock. Back and forth, up and down, tiring, hot, taking so long, tedious, - oh when will it ever get done! Far easier to take a short cut, and not go to so much effort! But the diligent and wise builder who takes the sayings of Jesus very seriously keeps plodding on. While others seem to take no time at all in completing their grand projects and schemes, this one builder is meticulous, because he wants his house to last, long after he leaves the scene, long after he is dead and buried he wants his legacy to be remembered and that house to still stand. His character to be written in the book of life. Again the Apostle is helpful: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11:

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The effort and energy expended in building the life, the character, upon a firm foundation, one that is unchanging and steadfast has the greatest of dividends. All that careful and thoughtful labour pays off. If the foundation is sure, so is the building. The steady character which results, will resist the dramas, the knocks and buffeting of the storms of life. When trouble comes, it makes no difference, the person is unshaken and resolute. Just as when the rain came, the floods and the winds and beat upon the house on the Rock, so it remained.

Meanwhile the slogging hard work of keeping the commandments of Christ, to so many becomes wearisome and over the top, unnecessary, and why waste so much time, we want to just have some fun. Why make life difficult for yourself, look its so much easier to not bother with that great Rock. So it was that the tower of Babel was built in the plain of Shinar – it really didn't last long – it wasn't even finished! So it is that the majority of 'religious' people build their character on the ever changing, ever moving, unstable opinions of men, shifting like the sands. Much easier to go along with the crowd, why everyone else is doing it, the majority cant be wrong. Such careless, thoughtless lazy thinking results in a careless lazy person. The edifice they build – their personality becomes cracked and flawed, as they cannot cope with the ever changing demands, and strains imposed by trying to please everyone around them, and with no common ground, when the storms of life come along, why they get blown over, and collapse, and fall to pieces, just like the

house built upon the sand, and Jesus added for emphasis, - and great was the fall of it. There is a passage in the Old Testament prophets where a similar analogy is made where Isarel took a short cut constructing their building of a nation, and it collapsed – see Ezekiel 13:11-16.

More than this, whilst the wise man, who heeds Jesus' sayings, has built a house on the Rock of the Word of God, his building will outlast his mortal life. God will not blot out his memory – but the foolish who build on the sand, though seemingly achieving so much so quick, will have no legacy, their monuments and edifices will be swept away, the very memory of them will be no more. So says the Apostle in: 1 Corinthians 3:13-15: *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Brother Terry