

Text: Matthew 7:24-28

Meaning: Jesus said to build your house on the rock

Big Idea: Build your house on the rock

Objective: I want the hearers to build their homes on the rock

Theme: HOW?

Morgan Wallen – I WROTE THE BOOK

When it comes to Hitchin' the boat up
Backin' down the ramp In my old truck
To find a bunch of logs, To catch a bunch of hogs
Yeah, I wrote the book, Yeah, I wrote the book

If you wanna learn, To throw a curve right
To catch a clean up Lookin' on a third strike
Talk a little smack while he's walkin' back
Yeah, I wrote the book

But there's one that lays by the lamp on the nightstand
One that says don't cuss and don't fight
Or let the bottle turn you into a different man
But, man, if I don't do it every Friday night

Those get you into Heaven letters in red
Ain't gettin' read enough to keep me on a straight line
I'm a Jack of all trades but man I gotta say
That's one book I didn't write

Yeah the good Lord knows I need it
I didn't write it but I probably oughta read it

**DADS – THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF STUFF WE MAKE SURE TO
TEACH OUR CHILDREN. WHAT ABOUT FAITH IN CHRIST?**

Wise man – BUILDS HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK. Wise man sets a secure foundation of faith in His family.

**Today – I plead with you to build your house on the rock.
That's the only way it will survive the storms of life.**

READ MATTHEW 7:24-29

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by saying the wise man is the one who builds his house on the Rock. The wise person living in the Palestinian desert would erect a dwelling on a secure rock to protect the house from the flash floods that sudden storms created. The foolish person would build on or near the sandy stream beds and would have no protection against the devastation of those flash floods. So too Judgment Day will come suddenly like a flood, like in the days of Noah, and it is only those structures built on the rock that will endure.

Deuteronomy 32:4 – Song of Moses

The Rock—his work is perfect; all his ways are just. A faithful God, without bias, he is righteous and true.

IS YOUR HOUSE BUILT ON THE ROCK?
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

First Jesus tells us....

1. DO WHAT GOD SAYS

In His final challenge to choose between life and destruction, Jesus made it even clearer that the criterion for a righteous life is obedience to His teaching. Not familiarity with His teaching, faithful obedience to it. In fact, that is the entire theme of the Sermon on the Mount – God calls us to a Kingdom way of living not just thinking.

These words of mine (7:24, 26).

The possessive pronoun **mine** is in the emphatic beginning position in that phrase. Jesus was equating his own words with the will of his Father (7:21).

ACTS – present active – keeps on doing them

DOESN'T ACT – also present active

TALKING ABOUT YOUR PATTERN OF LIFE – NOT JUST ONE TIME
OBEDIENCE

James 1:22

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Know what God says

HEARS – Prayer and Scripture intake are ESSENTIAL TO YOUR LIFE. There are all kinds of devotional resources out there today to help you engage with God's Word. GET IN THE WORD UNTIL IT GETS IN YOU!

In a day of podcasts and youtube channels and facebook live streams and websites with archived sermons on them – THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR A LACK OF SCRIPTURE INTAKE.

INPUTS DETERMINE OUTCOMES

Follow the instructions

The Bible is God's instruction manual for us. Only a life built on God's instructions will last.

There is a shelving unit in my basement that is on the verge of collapse. Simply because I didn't follow the instructions. Somehow I have posts in the wrong position or shelves in the wrong place or something – as a result this shelving unit is like

the leaning tower of pisa. If you bump it while looking for something else the entire thing will fall down.

THE TRUTH IS I DON'T KNOW HOW LIFE IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT PRAYER AND THE BIBLE.

Jesus says exhorts us here to....

2. PREPARE FOR THE STORMS

In Israel there were times when storms would rise up suddenly and flash flooding would occur. As a result water would rush down into dry sandy stream beds – those houses constructed too close to these beds would be greatly damaged or even destroyed. A wise man would not build near those dry stream beds.

Storms are inevitable

Jesus didn't suggest that storms were a possibility. He said the rain will fall, the river will rise, and the wind will blow in your life. BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.

Health – Job – Marriage – Kids – Family/Relationships

If you think that by living for Jesus you won't face any storms you are mistaken. HOW DO YOU PREPARE?

Start with the right foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay any **foundation** other than what has been laid down. That **foundation** is Jesus Christ.

Life, relationships, and faith don't collapse overnight, just like the foundation to a home doesn't fail in a day.

IT ERODES OVER TIME.

EROSION

SHAKY FOUNDATION – STORMS ONLY REVEAL WHAT WAS ALREADY THERE CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION

Build with intentionality

Building a house takes years not just months. In order to purchase property you have to save up for years. Then you have to choose your builder and pick out a house plan – then go to the bank and secure the construction loan – once that closes the builder begins the meticulous process of lining up all the subs and coordinating all the work and ordering all the inspections. The homeowner has to go and pick out all the paint and the flooring and the cabinets and the windows and the doors and the countertops and the sinks and the toilets and the shingles and the siding or the brick and so on and so forth until you don't want to walk into another supply store in your life.

WE DO ALL THAT TO BUILD A PHYSICAL HOME – WHY DON'T WE BUILD FAITH INTO OUR HOME THAT INTENTIONALLY? SHOULDN'T WE DO THAT EVEN MORE INTENTIONALLY?

Prayer – the Word – Worship – Giving – Serving – Inviting

4 MUST HAVE Discussions: (ONE SLIDE)

MINISTRY – Worship and Serve God

MARRIAGE – Dating and relationships

MONEY – Budgeting, Saving, Spending, Giving

MISSION – Calling in life, reason you get out of bed

Lastly, we must....

3. LIVE IN CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

The crowds respond in amazement and contrast Jesus' teaching with that of the Hebrew scribes. What was the difference? Authority. The scribes and Pharisees were religious authorities, but their teaching was always based on quoting Scripture or subsequent Jewish teachers and tradition. Jesus, however, quotes Scripture in his sermon only to reinterpret it, he cites no human authorities or tradition, and he speaks with directness and confidence that he himself is bringing God's message for a new era in human history. Such preaching reflects either the height of presumption and heresy or the fact that he was a true spokesman for God, whom we dare not ignore.¹

Semikah Rabbi

The other type of rabbi was called a "semikah" rabbi. Now, there were very few of these rabbis in the time that Jesus lived. In fact, most historians think there were only around a dozen or so in the hundred years before or after Jesus. These rabbis were amazing because they had mastered the entire Tanakh – the Old Testament Scriptures. This allowed these rabbis were respected enough that they were able to give new teaching.

The word "semikah" is the Hebrew word for "authority." These rabbis were highly respected. And to be able to call a "semikah" rabbi your own personal rabbi was the highest of honors.

A "semikah" rabbi was only considered to have this authority, if two other "semikah" rabbis believed a man to have earned this

¹ Craig Blomberg, [Matthew](#), vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 134–135.

honor, and they would convey it by standing with their hands on or over the head of the new rabbi and declare it publicly.

Scripture shows us numerous times that Jesus taught in a way that was much different than the Torah Teachers; Jesus taught new teachings, and He did so with great authority. Jesus was a Shmeka rabbi. This is why those who heard Jesus teach said that He taught with authority. It meant that Jesus must have had “semikah”. Jesus was a Jewish Rabbi. He was elite. And He taught with authority.

(<https://thebibleners.com/was-jesus-a-jewish-rabbi-it-really-does-matter/>)

Power Over Sin

Romans 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless

Spirit – empower you

Scriptures – enlighten you

Saints – encourage you

Power Over Satan

1 John 3:8

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose:
to **destroy** the **devil's** works.

No weapon formed against you will prosper. Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world. In this world we will have trouble, but we can take courage because Jesus has overcome the world!

Power to Lead

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness

A man is at his best when he is leading his family, leading his children, and standing for Christ in his workplace and the community.