

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”
BIG IDEA . . . Part 19: True Judgment –
Built to Last
(Matt. 7:24-29; Lk. 6:46-49)

INTRO: We come to the final teaching in this series: Jesus’ Kingdom Manifesto, an in depth look at the most quoted sermon Jesus ever preached (Chs. 5-7 SOM). It has been the longest, the most demanding, and the most rewarding in my teaching ministry.

CONTEXT: Entire 111 verses contrasts self-righteousness and the righteousness God requires . . . Video Alistair Begg (:3:52) . . .

REVIEWING: Jesus’ audience is mixed (disciples, religious leaders, commoners). “Then” (therefore) draws conclusion to what has been said, esp. (vv. 13-23). Two gates lead to two paths, two trees producing two different kinds of fruit, and two professions resulting in two different destinies. Today, two builders building two different houses (lives) and two ends – one built to last, one doesn’t. In the story Jesus deals with three probing questions: What is the foundation of your life? How do you handle the storms of life? What must you do to live an unshakeable well-built life? Let’s read it and compare these two builders (Read vv. 24-29).

I. THEIR SIMILARITIES

- A. They shared the same *desire*. Each wanted to build a house (vv. 24-29). House represents life. Each desired to construct a meaningful life.
- B. They heard about the same *path* (vv. 24, 26). Each heard the way to an unshakeable well-built life. Two options: God’s way or man’s way (Pro. 16:15) – a choice.
- C. Both faced *adversity* (vv. 25, 27). Tough times come to both and to all. Maybe financial, health, death, etc. Either just left a storm, in a storm, or headed to one. Be ready!

II. THEIR DIFFERENCES

- A. They possessed different *responses* (Matt. 7:24, 26). One was *wise* in building his life; other was *foolish*. Funny: Man appears at pearly gates...Big difference between wise & foolish! Not foolish because he didn’t hear, but because he chose his own path. What makes one wise? Matt. 7:21; Eph. 5:15-17.

- B. They built on different *foundations* (vv. 24, 26). The key to story. The wise man built his life on a solid rock foundation; the other chose sand. Sand foundation based on our goodness and wisdom. You must “dig deep” (v. 48). Building a foundation on solid rock is not easy. Requires effort, hard work, discipline, perseverance. Also, takes longer and more costly.

“What is this solid rock foundation?” Compare v. 24 & v. 26. Difference? Both hear, but only the wise man “does”—obeys, applies what is heard (v. 24). The difference was one of doing. FOUNDATION is obeying what God says. Look at a few verses—1 Cor. 3:11; Matt. 7:21; Lk. 11:28; Jn. 13:17; Jam. 1:22-25.; 1 Jn. 2:3-6. Funny—Big difference between . . . Hearing must lead to *doing*. Truth must be applied. Swindoll writes, “Action is . . .” What have you heard God say and failed to do? Note to self: The foundation must be in place *before* the storms arrive—they are inevitable and often uncontrollable! Consistent heart-driven obedience is the only proof we have Christ.

- C. They experienced different *results* (vv. 25, 27). Storm-avoidance not possible; storm resistance is. Difficulty has a way of testing our foundation. Look more closely at results.
 - *Endures* (v. 25 “could not shake it”) – unshakeable life. Such a life endures and its roots grow deeper and stronger through adversity. Also, a powerful witness and encouragement to others.
 - *Collapses* (v. 27 “...it fell”) – life built on sand collapses. How did it fall (stumble)? Become angry, bitter, resentful at God maybe? (cp. Mark 4:16-17). Why “great”? unexpected!

CONC: Closing Verses (vv. 28-29) – The SOM comes to a close. It has been encouraging and convicting at the same time. What Jesus taught with unparallel authority and power blew their minds. His desire was to change their lives and destiny. Return to questions: What is the foundation of your life? What must you do to build an unshakeable well-built life? What a simple and powerful story of two lives. Each of us is in the story. Who best describes you? Want an unshakeable well-built life? All about your foundation—following Christ and His Word.

Hymn: “The Solid Rock” (William Bradbury 1863 – also wrote “Jesus Loves Me”)