

Matthew 7:24-29 is a call from Jesus to the lost. They were astounded at His teaching. The word astounded means: amazed or derailed in thinking. Jesus taught with authority and those listening heard God speak to them.

A simple outline of the passage in four parts:

1) **Hearing and Doing His Words:** V24, Christ has given numerous examples why we should follow Him in Matt. 7. Matt. 7:13-14 describes the way of salvation as a narrow way with a narrow gate. Many have gone through the broad way and broad gate that leads to destruction. V15-20 describes the fruit of those who obey Christ and false believers. V21-23 describes false religious goodness versus those who obey the Word of the Lord.

- a. Jesus invites the listener to come to and obey Him, 7:24. Jesus is first in all things (Col. 1:16-17). He judges those who claim to have done His will, 7:21. He is the executioner as well, 7:23. He has sovereign knowledge of unseen things. He summarizes the Law and prophets, 7:12. He makes sure His followers have what they need, 6:33. He tells us where to put our treasure, 6:20. He determines who gets reward and who doesn't, 6:1-4. He gives the new covenant and says in the Beatitudes who is part of the Kingdom of Heaven and who isn't, 5:3-12. Jesus gives new commandment, 5:21, 27, 31, 38, & 43.
- b. The will of the Father is that the believer believes in Christ and has everlasting life, John 6:29, 40. No one comes to the Father unless they are drawn to Him, 6:44.

2) **The Result of Hearing and Doing His Words:** V27, the storm reveals the foundation of what was built. Rain, rivers, floods, and wind are sometimes used in Scripture to describe a negative attribute: Prov. 27:15, a continual dripping and contentious wife. Pro. 28:3, a poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain leaving no food. Rev. 12:15, Satan trying to carry away the woman's offspring with a flood. Wind is used in Eph. 4:14 talking about truth and sound doctrine and not being carried away by every wind of doctrine. 1 Tim. 1:19, made shipwreck by wind and wave to ruin.

>> The blessing for believers is that after the storm, our foundation is secure, firmly on the rock, Prov. 10:25, Matt. 7:25, 1 Cor. 16:13

3) **Not Hearing and Doing His Words:** V26, a foolish man builds on the sand anyway. Even with sound wisdom and knowledge available, a fool despises it, **Prov. 1:7**. Other Proverbs that describe the fool: **1:22**, fools hate knowledge. **3:35**, shame is the legacy of fools. **10:18**, fools slander others. **12:15**, fools are always right. **13:16**, a fool brags about his foolishness. **14:9**, fools mock at sin. **14:16-17**, fools are quick tempered and arrogant. **15:5**, a fool despises (rejects) his father's wisdom. The fool in Matt. 7:26, rejects the words of Christ in Matt. Ch. 5-7, and sees the sand as a good place to build their house and can't see the coming danger.

4) **The Result of Not Hearing and Doing His Words:** V27, the fall was a loud, great fall. The result of this fall is the judgement of God, described as eternal judgement in Rev. 20:11-15.

- a. **How do we characterize a man building on the sand?** Not poor in spirit. Theirs is not the kingdom of heaven, their pride has put them in hell.

Jesus uses the term "rock" because He has referred to Himself as **THE** Rock and Cornerstone throughout Scripture: **Rock:** Ps. 18:2, 31, 46; 19:14; 27:5; 28:1; 31:2, 3; 40:2; 61:2; 62:2, 6, 7; 71:3; 73:26; 78:35; 89:26; 94:22; 95:1. **Stone:** Ps. 118:22; Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Cor. 10:4.

Further Discussion and Application

As you read through Matthew Chapter 5-7, list the attributes of a believer? Contrast those with the attributes of an unbeliever? As you look at the fruit/attributes of a believer, create a list of characteristics that you now see a need to improve in your life and be sanctified in.

Why is the Word of God the only sure footing for life? God has set your feet upon the Rock. What are the blessings of Christ in John 10:25-30? What is the strength of our God in Psalm 19? What has God's law proven to us?

Believers aren't described as fools. That term describes those that deny God or despise His goodness and those that are futile in their thinking. But we can make decisions that lack wisdom. How can being disciplined by others and sharpening one another with God's Word produce more strength? Iron that is sharpened is much more effective than dull iron. What application does this have for us as we consider the Lord's words in Scripture? What is the fruit of a sharpened man or woman of God?

Consider areas in your life that are supported more by man's wisdom than God's wisdom. Think of things in your home, job, marriage, etc. that you do automatically and with little thought. It might be that you previously established those habits with Biblical truth. How are you handling your money, time, relationships, and sanctification? Have you become sharper or duller over time? How might you be even more sharp? How can the body of Christ be helpful in that? How might laying aside additional weight you are carrying help as well (Heb. 12:1-2)? Would these actions secure your footing and foundation even more?