



Title: Foundation Matters

Date: July 24, 2022

Scripture Text: Matthew 7:24-29

Sermon Series: Inside-Out

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Today we conclude our study on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with a look at an illustration of two foundations. The foundation isn't seen, but it needs to be built carefully because the rest of the building depends on its stability. Jesus uses this illustration for His listeners to consider the foundation upon which they build their lives. Jesus is inviting His listeners to respond to what He has said. For them to take what He said and make that the foundation upon which they build their lives. Let's look at four characteristics of His invitation.

I. People Project Similar Appearances

In [Matthew 7:13-14](#), Jesus describes two paths, a narrow one leading to everlasting life in heaven and a broad path leading to destruction in hell. He continues with an example of two foundations and the houses built on each. One represents those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord AND Savior and the other representing those who have not. Jesus is addressing a religious crowd, and His point is that you can be religious, but still be on the wrong path/foundation.

- What distinguishes the two houses Jesus describes.
- How are they similar?

The houses may look similar, but there is a key component that makes them different, and this difference will determine if the house stands... regardless of the circumstances which may surround it.

- How are Christians and the lost similar?
 - How are they different?

The professing Christian must be sure that their life is built on the right foundation. This requires personal examination ([2 Cor. 13:5](#), [2 Tim. 3:5](#)).

II. People Participate in Similar Experiences

Both houses experience the effects of storms (rain, floods, winds). Everyone experiences the storms of this life. Some see the absence of storms as a confirmation of right living and the presence of storms as a consequent of wrong living. All experience storms! It is part of living in a broken world. The biggest difference is that, for the Christian, Jesus (the firm foundation) is with us in the storms.

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- What are examples of storms we experience.
- What is the difference Jesus makes for the Christian during these storms?
- What can the Christian do to rely on Jesus during the storms?

III. People Experience *Opposite Outcomes* (Matthew 7:25-27)

Even though both houses experience similar storms, the outcome of each is very different. The house whose foundation was *'the rock'* was able to stand against the storms. The house built on the sand fell when the storms came... and great was the fall!

- How can a Christian's response to a storm influence the non-believer?
- Give an example of a storm.
 - Describe how a non-believer responds.
 - Describe how a Christian can respond.
- How can a Christian use storms as a way to help the non-believer see what it's like to experience Jesus?
- How can being in the midst of a storm, having Jesus with you in it, and knowing you may be able to use this storm as an opportunity to let others see Jesus in you, help you endure the storm?

IV. Public Response to Preaching (Matthew 7:28-29)

Jesus amazed the crowds with an authority that surpassed that of other teachers. First-century Jewish teachers appealed to the authority of their rabbinic predecessors. However, Jesus introduced his teachings with the contrast, "You have heard that it was said ... but I tell you". By this Jesus made clear that he had the authority to interpret the law independent from and even contrary to the Jewish tradition.

- What are examples of Jesus' teachings that amaze you?
- What makes Jesus' teachings so amazing?
- Why is our response to Jesus' teachings important?
 - Why is it a problem to hear (or read) God's word and not respond?

As we conclude Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, how will you respond to His teachings? What stands out to you most about what He has taught in His sermon? Prayerfully consider what Jesus wants you to do because of the teachings in His sermon.