

BUILDING TO WITHSTAND THE STORMS

Matt 7:24-27

INTRODUCTION

- A. Many natural disasters: tornadoes, fires, hurricanes and such which impact the lives of many people
- B. Reveal much about contractors: some are unscrupulous; failing to build according to code, homes and buildings are destroyed
- C. Jesus made a parallel between storms and buildings at end of His sermon as He sought to encourage people to act upon His sayings; contrasting the difference between those who were doers and not just listeners Matt 7:24-27
- D. What do "houses" of wise and foolish builders represent? What "storms" is Jesus talking about? How can we "build" so as to be able to withstand the storms?

DISCUSSION:

I. THE HOUSES REPRESENT OUR LIVES

- A. Each building a "life" that will face inevitable changes of life; many ups and downs that come our way
- B. We are building these "lives" upon a foundation
 1. The foundation is whatever teaching, doctrine, or philosophy to which we subscribe
 2. It may be a philosophy or doctrine adopted from others, or developed ourselves
- C. Cannot escape fact we are "builders." Question is whether we will be wise or foolish builders. The tests that will determine are called "storms"

II. STORMS ARE THINGS WHICH THREATEN OUR WELL-BEING

- A. May involve literal storms such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods
 1. May take all we own, perhaps even loved ones
 2. How we respond to tragedy will reveal quality of our "building". Will we be emotionally devastated or able to stand strong, to continue without despair?
- B. May also involve figurative storms such as illness, loss of loved ones, financial setbacks
 1. May take away our health, family, possessions
 2. How we respond to such tragedies will reveal the quality of our "building". Will we be emotionally devastated or be able to stand strong, willing to continue without despair?
- C. There is final "storm" of life Heb 9:27; Rom 2:4-6
 1. Will be truest test of our "building" (character) 2Cor 5:10-11

2. The Lord will describe the kind of "builder" (or servant) we have been Matt 25:21, 26

- D. Longer we live, more "storms" we face; and there is the final "storm" that none can escape!

III. OBEYING JESUS IS THE KEY TO WITHSTANDING THE STORMS

- A. Being a "hearer" only is not sufficient Matt 7:26-27
 1. One is deceiving only themselves Jas 1:22-24
 2. Like unscrupulous contractor, the storm will reveal the true quality of one's character Num 32:23
- B. We must "do" what Jesus says Matt 7:24-25
 1. Lives built upon the "rock" (a solid foundation)
 2. The doer is blessed in what he does Jas 1:25
- C. Review sayings of Jesus that help withstand storms
 1. Qualities to guide our lives Matt 5:1-12
 2. Our influence on others Matt 5:13-16
 3. Our relationship to the Law Matt 5:17-19
 4. Righteousness surpassing scribes and Pharisees Matt 5:20-48
 5. Righteousness well-pleasing to God Matt 6:1-18
 6. Where to lay up treasure that cannot rust or be stolen Matt 6:19-21
 7. Free from materialism and anxiety Matt 6:22-29
 8. Necessities of life are provided for and what to seek first Matt 6:30-34
 9. Not judged by inconsistent standard Matt 7:1-6
 10. Receive good gifts God gives to His children Matt 7:7-11
 11. Fulfill the Law and the Prophets Matt 7:12
 12. Stay on straight and narrow way Matt 7:13-14
 13. Avoid being misled by false prophets Matt 7:15-20
 14. Who will enter kingdom of heaven Matt 7:21-23

CONCLUSION

- A. This is a life that can truly withstand the storms, whether it be the literal or figurative storms of every day life, or the storm of the Day of Wrath and Judgment yet to come
- B. On what kind of foundation are you building your house (life)?
- C. Heed what Jesus said, and your life will be solid, but be listeners only, and your life will be as shaky as sand!
- D. Just as Jesus is the Rock-solid foundation of the church (1Cor 3:11; Eph 2:20; 1Pet 2:4-6), so let Him be the Rock-solid foundation of your life