

**Matthew 7:24-29 “House on the Rock”-John Auxier**

**Matt. 7:24** “Everyone then who hears these words of mine *and does them* will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

**26** And everyone who hears these words of mine *and does not do them* will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

**Matt. 7:28** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, **29** for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**1. Great Endings**

Have you ever skipped to the ending of a book? Why?

What do authors often do in the last pages of their books?

- Tie up loose ends.
- Recap the main point.
- Suggest next steps or new adventures.

This passage does some of the same things—the final words of the greatest sermon Jesus ever preached.

What are some highlights of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:1-7:26?

Key idea: This little parable is important because it’s the container for all the teachings of that long, beautiful day on the Mountain with Jesus.

**2. Teaching by Comparisons**

Through out the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus likes to compare and contrast things to make his points.

**Sample Contrasts in the Sermon on the Mount: Two ways to go**

Wrong Way	God’s Way
<b>5:19</b> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,	but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
<b>5:22</b> But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.	<b>23</b> So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <b>24</b> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
<b>5:43</b> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’	<b>44</b> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
<b>6:19</b> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,	<b>20</b> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
<b>7:13</b> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.	<b>14</b> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
<b>7:21a</b> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...	<b>21b</b> ...but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

**3. Two houses: A powerful Word Picture.**

He makes this closing argument by presenting us with a comparison of two houses with two different destinies.

- We are all shelter seekers—we all relate.

#### 4. Shoddy construction is easy.

Renovation and real estate shows are fun on TV. Often they show structural problems hidden in homes. One example is [Holmes on Homes](#). For example, Episode 6067 “Shaky Foundations” can be purchased online at [www.makeitright.ca](http://www.makeitright.ca).

Ex. My old house in Abbotsford, just so so.

Ex. My brother-in-law once bought a house that was owned by an engineer-great bones.

#### 5. Foundations are important: But what is your foundation sitting on—that’s Jesus point.

Even with a good foundation—if you’ve built on sandy mud, your house won’t hold up.

#### Make your life Rock solid: Listen to Jesus and do what he says.

Some things are meant to go together. Without one we miss the other.

- Can you name some?

Two ancient ways of viewing Christian living: Orthopraxis and Orthodoxy.

Orthodoxy is Christian doctrine. It’s theological and biblical truth.

Orthopraxy is Christian practice. It’s living out the truths and doctrines we believe.

Some Christians are big on teaching. They love doctrinal sermons, and theological discussions. Others don’t worry too much about doctrine. They want things simple. They love to take action, “So what do I do?”

Jesus puts them both together in his summing up parable. He says listen AND do. Both are equally important.

What kind of listener-doer are you? Where do you need to move?

#### 6. One certainty for all Houses in Life: Storms will come.

We like to think that we can find the ideal location with no worries from the elements. We can spend our lives seeking micro-climates.

But Jesus says: The rain will pour, the floods will rise, and the winds will blow on your house. Bad weather will come, the question is “are you and I on solid ground?”

Example: Losing a job

Example: Our daughter’s medical crisis

Life will ask things of us: What are we made of? Where do we stand? *Jesus says: Build on me, walk with me.*

#### Conclusion

**Matt. 7:28** And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, **29** for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Jesus speaks with authority to us in this little parable. Is he presumptuous—or does he have this authority? Do you believe he has the authority to speak into your life? Are you living under his direction or not?

Matthew 7:24-27 is the summative point of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus says: “Sit and Listen at my feet and then, get up and Live it out”.

It also suggests that the adventure is just beginning: listening and obeying are relational interactions with God’s Word and the Holy Spirit and our actively following God’s way.

Amen.

*For further reflections on the Beatitudes that were part of what Jesus refers to here, go to the FLEFC website for Pastor Lorin’s recent sermon series.*