



Building On Solid Foundations

“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock” (Matthew 7:25).

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“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27).

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:46-49).

Every body builds. We build our lives, careers, family, reputation, homes, business, relationships, the spiritual lives of newly saved christians that we are following up and many other things. This teaching illustrates that it is not only the “what” but the “how” we build that is important - the importance of solid foundation. On the face of it, these two buildings would have looked alike, and could have been built with similar materials, but the only difference lay in their unseen foundations and was only revealed by their responses to rain, flood, streams and winds. Sometimes, the unseen parts of our buildings may be more important than the flamboyant outward appearances. Jesus used this parable to challenge those whose verbal professions do not match their actions. He categorised these two builders as “wise man” and a “foolish man”, and that serves as general categories for people in the world - the wise and the fool. They all had the same ambition - to build a house, just

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like everyone today, with whatever they are building. Some are wise in their building process, but others are not. Sooner or later, they will soon wake up to the realities and consequences of their wisdom or folly. Note the following points:

- 1) The wise man selected a rocky ground to build on, while the fool thought it quicker and easier to build on a sandy top soil. The wise digged deep to lay the foundation on solid rock. The fool may have made his choice to avoid ‘wasting time’ to dig up to hard rock and lay a solid foundation, but the wise reckoned such hard work as necessary investment for the protection of his building and long term gain. He had the foresight to design his house to withstand the inevitable elements of the weather that would one day test it. It is not a waste of time to take time to lay a solid foundation for life.
- 2) The rain, flood, streams and winds made no distinction between the two houses in how they beat upon them. It is inevitable that at some points in life we will encounter storms that will test our fortitude. What matters most in life is not the nature or duration of the storm, but that at the end of it, our houses remain standing.
- 3) The wise man’s house withstood the vehemence of the storms, but the house of the foolish man was no match for the storms, which immediately wrecked it “and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49). Just imagine the feelings that would have ran through the minds of both men after the storms. “Had I known”, they say, “is the constant excuse of a fool”. He that fails to prepare, has already prepared to fail! Be wise by preparing to succeed.