**THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS**

***Matthew 7:24-29***

Sunday School Lesson

*Parables of Jesus Christ*

Week 11 – 12/31/2017

**Introduction:** In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus plainly expresses the different outcome between the one who follows Him and the one who doesn’t. While the primary message of the parable is to show the wisdom of putting your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, Christians can still learn valuable lessons from this simple parable. The major theme for the Christian is to have enough spiritual foresight to realize the benefits and consequences that come based upon the things that we do.

1. WE MUST REALIZE THAT JESUS IS OUR ROCK. (24)
2. **Notice that a rock provides stability.** The wise man builds his house upon a rock because that rock offers the stability that his home needs. No matter how the winds blow, the rock will continue to do its job. Jesus does the same for us. He should be the foundation of our home. The Word of God gives us the answers to life’s challenges, and if we follow them, we will not be surprised by the outcome. We can expect a stable and consistent result. Stability is a great commodity in a home, both in a literal sense and a figurative sense. Children need stability in their home. Spouses need stability in their home. As Christians, we need that stability in our home.
3. **Notice that a rock provides strength.** When we consider the qualities of a rock, we recognize that rocks are solid. They are strong. The parable speaks of how the home withstands the floods that pushed against it. Flood waters can be very strong as well; however, they are no match to the strength of the rock. There are situations in life that can be strong enough or devastating enough to push over a Christian, which is why it is so important to rely on Christ for our strength. He will help us overcome those situations that we are not able to handle in our flesh.
4. **Notice that a rock provides support.** Unlike the sand, the rock does an ample job providing the home with that base layer of support. Sand will ultimately sag and move, but a rock will continually provide the support that is needed. The Lord wants to be there for us. Not only does He have the strength and stability to give us the victory, but He is more than willing to provide that support to His followers. We just have to seek out His support in our lives.
5. **Notice that a rock provides safety.** As we think about a rock, it might remind us of a certain Old Testament story involving David. He used a simple rock to take down Goliath and give safety to the people of God. The wise man was kept safe because of that rock. God gave us His Word and His Son for the purpose of keeping us from danger. The biggest danger, of course, is the potential to spend eternity in Hell. Beyond that, we face danger frequently in our Christian lives. The Devil would love nothing more than to cause a Christian to stumble and fall into a life of misery. He is a roaring lion that likes to seek out his prey. Following the rock keeps us away from that danger.
6. WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE ARE THE SAND. (26)
7. **Notice that sand is miniscule in size.** When you see sand at the beach, you are looking at billions of individual grains of sand. Collectively, they seem of great significance, but on an individual scale, they are quite small. When we choose to neglect the Lord’s teaching and instead follow after man’s thoughts, we might think we are taking a sound approach. After all, there are many other people who probably think the exact same way as you. Surely, there must be some truth and potential logic to it. As Christians, we can easily fall into the peer pressure of the world and take on a popular opinion mentality. Just remember that those opinions come from the small mind of a man. Having a million men who all agree still does not change the fact that the mind of a man is small compared to God.
8. **Notice that sand is moved with simplicity.** In this parable, we see that the sand is not a good foundation for the house. This is because sand is too easy to move. When you step on sand, your feet typically sink into it. It gives up effortlessly to the weight that is pressed upon it. As people, our position on matters of importance can quickly change. All it takes is a particular influence or situation to arise. This is why we need the Rock. He provides us with that stable mind that we find in the book of Proverbs. The mind of a man can be very unstable and easily movable.
9. WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN HOUSE. (24, 26)
10. **Notice that the foolish builder lacked vision.** The obvious point here that Jesus is making is that the wise builder looked ahead and saw the potential dangers that would come. He was wise because he had a vision. A foolish person only looks at what is right in front of them. As Christians, we should not be so carnal as to only live in the moment. We are to look to Jesus, Who is the author and finisher of our faith. Even if it seems like everything in our lives is going well at the moment, we ought to store up for those times of famine that we may have to endure as Christians.
11. **Notice that the foolish builder lacked a work ethic.** Building his house upon the sand was the easy thing to do. They lived in the desert. Sand was more than abundant in every direction. It took extra time and diligence to seek out a stronger foundation. If one was not found, they would have to build it.Ultimately, it was just much more convenient to build the house on the sand. The same is true with being a follower of Christ. It is much easier not to follow after the things of God and just give into the flesh. Being a true follower of God takes a constant and significant amount of effort! This is why Jesus says here that the wise builder is a doer of His Words, not just a hearer only.
12. WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE FOUNDATION MUST COME FIRST. (24)
13. **Notice that every house has some type of foundation there first.** Regardless of whether it is the sand or the rock, the foundation is always the first part of the house building project. The question then is if we are going to put Christ first or ourselves first. One or the other is definitively going to be first. The Bible says that man cannot serve two masters. He will either love the one or hate the other.
14. **Notice that the house was built upon the rock.** To truly grasp the point for us here as Christians, we need to understand that we are not just talking about casual obedience here. To say that Jesus is your Rock, you are saying that His Word is what you base your decisions upon. Every decision should be started with the question of what the Bible would have you do. We do not have the luxury to pick and choose when we want to base our decisions upon His Word. When we deviate, we are essentially going back to that house on the sand that we lived in before we were saved.
15. WE MUST REALIZE THAT THERE WILL BE STORMS. (24)
16. **Notice that the rain descended.** The rain is the most typical of the three items mentioned. It rains all across the world. While the house on the sand may not have fallen just over the rain, the foundation would have corroded and washed away over time. It seems that the rain could represent those basic trials or temptations that come along frequently for every person. These are the area’s we don’t pay much attention too. Oftentimes, we will build our house in the sand here because we do not notice an immediate fall take place.
17. **Notice that the floods came.** The floods, of course, represent more intense rainfall. This is much more of a rare occurrence. This, perhaps, provides us with a picture of those bigger trials or temptations that come along. Perhaps, it could even be a sequence of events that culminate like in the case of Job. Flooding has a potential to do real damage. However, the flooding might not cause the home to totally fall over. The issue with flooding is that once it has happened, there’s really nothing you can do to prevent it. As much as you would like to go back to the rock foundation, you feel like you are stuck where you are at. It just happens so quickly that you do not even see it coming. This is why we stay on the rock even when the sun is shining.
18. **Notice that the winds blew.** While the parable does not speak to the veracity of the winds, one could assume that these were winds of great significance. The winds could represent the winds of change that come through and cause you to doubt the foundation of what you believe. Additionally, it could represent just the simple consequences or judgment that circle back around as a result of our decisions or time running out. Regardless, when the winds come, this is when you face total destruction. Jesus refers to it as a great fall. When we are on the Rock, there are no winds that blow that are too strong for the power of the Lord.

**CONCLUSION**: The foolish builder lost his home, and he potentially also lost his life and the life of his family. It all happened as a result of not being wise enough to have the right foundation. As Christians, we received that foundation at salvation. The question comes down to whether we are going to be wise enough to continue to build upon that foundation. We will find more joy staying on the rock than we could ever find settling for the sand.