

The Wise and the Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:15-27 and Luke 6:47-49
June 6, 2021

“The hearers of Christ’s word are here divided into two sorts; some that hear, and do what they hear; others that hear and do not. Christ preached now to a mixed multitude, and he thus *separates them, one from the other*, as he will at the great day, when *all nations shall be gathered before him*. Christ is still speaking from heaven by his word and Spirits, speaks by ministers, by providences, and of those that hear him there are two sorts.

(1.) Some that *hear his sayings and do them*: blessed be God that there are any such, though comparatively few. To hear Christ is not barely to give him the hearing, but to obey him. Note, It highly concerns us all to do what we *hear* of the saying of Christ. It is a mercy that we *hear his sayings*: *Blessed are those ears*, ch. 13:16, 17. But, if we practice not what we hear, we *receive that grace in vain*. To *do* Christ’s *sayings* is conscientiously to abstain from the sins that he forbids, and to perform the duties that he requires. Our thoughts and affections, our words and actions, the temper of our minds, and the tenour of our lives, must be conformable to the gospel of Christ; that is the doing he requires. All the *sayings* of Christ, not only the laws he has enacted, but the truths he has revealed, must be done by us. *They are a light*, not only to *our eyes*, but *to our feet*, and are designed not only to *inform* our judgments, but to *reform* our hearts and lives: nor do we indeed believe them, if we do not live up to them. Observe, It is not enough to *hear* Christ’s *sayings*, and understand them, *hear* them, and remember them, *hear* them, and talk of them, repeat them, dispute for them; but we must *hear, and do* them. *This do, and thou shalt live*. Those only *that hear, and do*, are *blessed* (Lu. 11:28; Jn. 13:17), and are akin to Christ. ch. 12:50.

(2.) There are others who *hear* Christ’s *sayings and do them not*; their religion rests in bare hearing, and goes no further; like children that have the rickets, their heads swell with empty notions, and indigested opinions, but their joints are weak, and they heavy and listless; they neither can stir, nor care to stir, in any good duty; *they hear* God’s *words*, as if they desired to *know his ways*, like a people *that did righteousness, but they will not do them*, Eze. 33:30, 31; Isa. 58:2. Thus they deceive themselves, as Micah, who thought himself happy, because he had a Levite to be his priest, though he had not the Lord to be his God. The seed is sown, but it never comes up; they see their spots in the glass of the word, but wash them off, Jam. 1:22, 24. Thus they put a cheat upon their own souls; for it is certain, if our hearing be not the means of our obedience, it will be the aggravation of our disobedience. Those who only *hear* Christ’s *sayings, and do them not*, sit down in the midway to heaven, and that will never bring them to their journey’s end. They are akin to Christ only by the half-blood, and our law allows not such to inherit.”¹

Everyone is building a house (life).

- The life you live.
- The places you go.
- The person you marry.
- The job you have.
- The involvement in your community.
- The choice to obey/disobey the Lord.
- The choice to follow Jesus.
- The choices you make.

¹ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (pp. 1646–1647). Peabody: Hendrickson.

Everyone has a “foundation.”

Christ or the world?

Importance of foundation, what it does?

For the Believer, it is Christ building the foundation in us, for the unbeliever it is them building it themselves.

Different starting points, different worldviews, different standard(s).

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

Everyone will face storms.

One doesn't simply walk away from the faith; they were never a part to begin with.

Faith that falters before the finish was faulty from the first. ~ **Vance Havner**

Everyone's house building is vital to someone else.

Everyone's foundation who is built on Jesus has the Answer.

Prayer Focus:

What is your foundation?

Are you obeying that which your foundation is built upon?

Remember, we are each building a house, what is it being built upon?