



Building on a Solid Foundation Matthew 7:24-29 (NLT)

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority — quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Two Foundations: Stone vs Sand

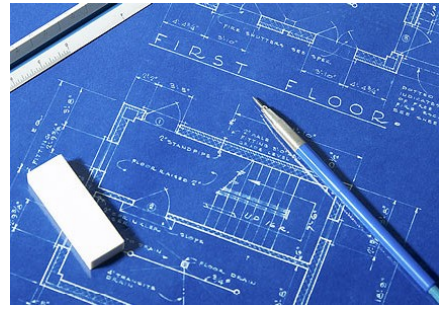
When the Storms Come...

Building through Obedience



A Building Survey

ELEMENTS OF THE JESUS LIFE (Matthew 5-7)



- Conduct yourself with humility (5:5)
- Cultivate an inner hunger and thirst for righteousness (5:6)
- Take every opportunity to show mercy towards others (5:7)
- Be a peace-maker; not a trouble-stirrer (5:9)
- Stand up for Jesus even when ridiculed or persecuted (5:11)
- Seek to keep God's commands and teach them to others (5:19)
- Do not allow anger and resentment against people to fester in your heart; or speak to or about them with contempt (5:22)
- Search your heart before engaging in worship. If there is anyone you need to be reconciled with, first go do whatever you can to remedy the breakdown (5:23-24)
- Settle disputes quickly before they escalate and cause you great loss (5:25-26)
- Do not commit adultery, or harbor adulterous thoughts in your heart (5:27-28)
- Ruthlessly root out sources of temptation in your life (5:29-30)
- Be faithful to your marriage vows; avoid divorce (5:31-32)
- Do not swear oaths and so create room for dishonest speech—instead let your yes be yes, and your no, no. Mean what you say (5:33-37)
- 'Turn the other cheek', i.e. don't retaliate and so fuel the cycle of revenge. Instead find creative and gracious ways to defuse, refute and transform evil (5:38-42)
- 'Love your enemies'. Pray for those people who irritate or wrong you. Greet difficult people with courtesy & treat them graciously, regardless of whether they deserve it or not (5:43-48)
- Give to the poor, and do so secretly—for God's eyes only (6:1-4)
- Pray to your Father in heaven in simplicity and secret—for God's eyes only (6:5-8)
- Fast, and do so secretly—for God's eyes only (6:16-18)
- Pray the Lord's prayer daily (6:9-13)
- Choose to forgive those who sin against you (6:14-15)
- Don't be materialistic and store up worthless and vulnerable wealth on earth; be more concerned about investing in heaven. Buy shares in the Kingdom (6:19-21)
- Focus your gaze on holy things, feast the eyes of your heart on that which is good (6:22)
- Don't worship wealth, worship God. Christian faith and love of money are incompatible (6:24)
- Nothing good comes from anxiously obsessing about the future. Instead seek to eliminate worry from your life. Cultivate a radical dependence on God for meeting your needs (6:25-34)
- Let the pursuit of God's kingdom and his righteousness be your top priority, everything else will fall into place if you get that right (6:33)
- Root out and eliminate judgmental thoughts, words and actions (7:1-2)
- Before you seek to correct the sin of another, tackle your own. Hate your own hypocrisy. Start with the assumption that you're the greatest sinner in the room (7:3-5)
- 'Don't throw your pearls to pigs'. Be careful with the precious disclosures of the heart; be discerning about who you entrust them to, otherwise they may be used against you (7:6)
- Passionately seek and pursue God, for he wants to be found, and to give good gifts to his children (7:7-11)
- Do to others what you would like them to do to you (7:12)
- Don't drift along; 'go with the flow'; or take the easy route through life — that road leads to hell. Instead diligently pursue the challenging way of Christ (7:13-14)
- Guard yourself against false prophets and their warped ideologies, teachings and intriguing novelties. First examine the fruit of their life and teaching — if it's not truthful, gracious, holy and wholesome, give them a wide berth (7:15-20)
- God doesn't want empty lip-service; he wants service-service! Seek to obey his will (7:21-23)
- Continually work at being an authentic disciple; i.e. reflecting on and living out the teachings of Jesus. 'Systematically and progressively rearrange your affairs to that end'. (7:24-27)