

## The House Built on the Rock (Matthew 7:24-27)

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said,] “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

1. Jesus’ words in this lesson serve as the conclusion to his most famous sermon, the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). Take a few moments to discuss Jesus’ earthly picture of the two houses, the two methods of building, and the two outcomes.
2. The phrase “these words of mine” refers to the entire Sermon on the Mount, a sermon in which Christ focused on the life and conduct that God demands. Discuss the following statements from Jesus’ sermon. Can you think of other statements that he made in this sermon?

*“Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42).* A/D: This basically means that I should be willing to give my possessions and money away to anyone who asks.

*“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).* A/D: Christians should strive for perfection.

*“Do not judge, or you too will be judged” (Matthew 7:1).* A/D: We shouldn’t really talk to someone about their sins because that would be “judging” them.

3. What effect will the demands of the Sermon on the Mount have on the heart of the spiritually “wise man”? On what (or whom) will the “wise man” be led to build “his house,” that is, his life?
4. How will building on “the rock” shape one’s everyday life? (See verse 24.)
5. After hearing the Sermon on the Mount, on what “sand” will the spiritually “foolish man” build “his house”? Give examples of other “sand” on which the spiritually foolish might build their lives.
6. What storms may touch the earthly lives of all people? What is the ultimate and final storm?

7. How will those who build their house “on the rock” and those who build “on sand” fare in the storms of life and especially in the ultimate, final storm?
  
8. Discuss each of the following statements:
  - From the street, the house of a believer and the house of an unbeliever may look identical.
  
  - God rewards the good works and obedience of his people.
  
  - An unbeliever can never correctly understand the Sermon on the Mount.
  
  - Even Christians are tempted to build their house “on sand.”