

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS



Building on the Rock

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:24

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

For My Family:

Today we come to the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. As we've studied these three amazing chapters together, we've learned all sorts of things about what it means to follow God. We read in Matthew 7:28-29 that the men and women who first heard this sermon were astonished at this teaching. Truly there are few better ways to spend your time than by reading or listening to this message, but as He concludes the sermon, Jesus reminds us that simply hearing His teachings is not enough. We need to *do* what Jesus tells us to do.

To illustrate the importance of doing the things God tells us, Jesus tells a parable about two different builders. They are both trying to build a house, but the first builds his house on the rock, while the other builds his house on the sand. Now if you've ever played with building blocks or other construction toys, you know that the best place to build is on a hard, flat surface. Otherwise, the blocks will fall over easily. It turns out, the same is true when you build houses. The man who built on the rock was wise. He built his house on a firm, solid foundation, and so the house stood strong even when the wind and rain came. The man who built on the sand, on the other hand, was foolish. On such an unstable surface, his house easily collapsed when the storm came.

These two men represent two different ways we can live our lives. The wise man is the person who lives his life in obedience to God's Word. When we commit our lives to following God and obeying His commands, our lives will be able to withstand any temptation or difficulty (the "rain, flood, and wind") we may face. Obedience to God's Word then is our sure and solid foundation. Those who do not build their lives on obedience to God's Word, on the other hand, will not fare so well when they face challenges in their lives.

Notice that the difference between the wise and foolish man is not that one heard the Word of God and one did not. The foolish man's problem was that he heard Christ's sayings but *didn't do them*. What this means is that it's not enough simply to read or hear God's Word. We have to do what it says. If you've read the whole Sermon on the Mount series with your family, you've heard sixteen of Christ's teachings. If you've done all of our family devotions, you've studied eighty different passages of Scripture. The question now is, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to continue to live as you always have and not let the Bible change you? Or will you build your life on the foundation of God's Word and do the things that Jesus commands us to do in Scripture? Let's be wise and build our lives on the Rock by following Jesus and doing the things He tells us to do.

Questions for Young Children:

What does the wise builder represent?

What does the foolish builder represent?

What are some things that Jesus tells us to do?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

How many of Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount can you remember? Name as many as you can.

What is one thing Jesus tells us to do that you need to work on?

Why is it so important that we not only hear the Word of God, but also do what it says?