

Scripture - Matthew 7:24-29 Parable of the Two Foundations

Part 8 - Authority: What Does the Bible Have to Do With Me?

(World Absorbing, Living Word)

This fall for our Bible study we're asking - what is the Bible? So we're asking all these fun, hard questions about the Bible that the Bible asks and answers about itself. The question today is: So What: So what does the Bible have to do with me? In a word this is a question about: authority.

Let's read a mini parable of Jesus in Matthew 7:24-29.¹

Remember a parable is like a riddle. In this parable the house is a symbol for your life. But the house/your life is not the main point of the parable. What is?

The foundation of the house. The main point of the parable is what your life is built on.

What's the foundation of the wise man's house vs. the foolish man's house?

Rock v sand.

Did you know that Israel was basically all desert and sand? So to build your house on rock, you go to do what?

Dig deep in the sand till you hit rock.

So a wise man digging deep and wisely building his house on rock means what for the Christian - what is that a picture of? What is the firm foundation of the life of a Christian?

To build your house/life wisely on the rock means to hear Jesus' Word and obey it!

Why are we always talking about the Bible every Sunday in church?

This is what every Christian is supposed to do = build our lives on the same foundation which is the Bible. We're called to be hearers and doers of God's Word.

How deep do you have to dig in the desert to build your house on sand?

No digging at all.

In the parable what do you imagine the HOUSE of the foolish man looks like?

It's easy to imagine the foolish man's house in the parable looks like a shack. Maybe it is some mud hut. But, the house of the foolish man could be a mansion or a castle, or some ordinary house.

So who is the foolish man in the parable?

The non-Christian. The UNbeliever. Whatever the non-Christian's life looks like (whether it looks like a shack or a mansion) this means the unbelieving non-Christian has a surface life with no real foundation.

But what's the difference if you build your life on God's Word vs if you do not?

The Christian's life will not fall BUT the unbeliever's life will fall and be ruined - in the ultimate sense. This is talking about eternal life vs eternal death and condemnation and ruin. The foolish person's life may look terrible or amazing BUT if they do not follow God's Word their life in the end will fall.

It is God's Word that tells us who God is. That he is God and we are not. He tells us how he made us to live. He tells us we do not live the way he made us to live. He tells us we will die for our sin. He tells us there is only one way to live forever ... through faith in Jesus, by believing he died for our sins. If you will not build your life on that gospel you will die forever. To not listen to God's Word is like a fish deciding he wants to be free of his fish bowl and water and walk around on dry land and breathe air. But that's not freedom for the fish, that's certain death. **God is the highest authority. Because he's God. And the only place we have his words are in Scripture. So the Bible is the final and ultimate authority.**

¹ Marty Machowski, *The Gospel Story Bible*, Story 95, The Wise and Foolish Builders, 193.