

COUNTER CULTURE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



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Build Your House on the Rock

Matthew 7:24–29

Matthew 7:24—8:1

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²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Matthew 7:24—8:1

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. ^{8:1} When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

1. The wise builder

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Matthew 5:19

“Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever **does** them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 7:12

“So whatever you wish that others would **do** to you, **do** also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does** the will of my Father who is in heaven.

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“In applying this teaching to ourselves, we need to consider that the Bible is a dangerous book to read, and that the church is a dangerous society to join. For in reading the Bible we hear the words of Christ, and in joining the church we say we believe in Christ. As a result, we belong to the company described by Jesus as both hearing his teaching and calling him Lord. Our membership therefore lays upon us the serious responsibility of ensuring that what we know and what we say is translated into what we do.” — *John Stott*

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2. The coming storm

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Matthew 13:20–21

²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Hebrews 9:27

It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

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Ezekiel 13:10–14

¹⁰ “‘Because they lead my people astray, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, ¹¹ therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. ¹² When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, ‘Where is the whitewash you covered it with?’”

Ezekiel 13:10–14

¹³ Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury. ¹⁴ I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the LORD.’”

Proverbs 10:25

When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever.

Proverbs 12:7

The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

3. The sure foundation

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“As both got on with their building, a casual observer would not have noticed any difference between them. For the difference was in the foundations, and foundations are not seen... In the same way professing Christians (both the genuine and the spurious) often look alike. You cannot easily tell which is which. Both appear to be building Christian lives... The reason you often cannot tell the difference between them is that the deep foundations of their lives are hidden from view...

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Jesus is insisting that neither an intellectual knowledge of him nor a verbal profession, though both are essential in themselves, can ever be a substitute for obedience. The question is not whether we say nice, polite, orthodox, enthusiastic things to or about Jesus; nor whether we hear his words, listening, studying, pondering and memorizing until our minds are stuffed with his teaching; but whether we do what we say and do what we know, in other words whether the lordship of Jesus which we profess is one of our life's major realities." — *John Stott*

4. The true king

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as **one who had authority**, and not as their scribes. ^{8:1} When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him.

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