

# Daily Discipleship

**Sunday, May 29 – June 4 (A) – Matthew 7:21-29**

**Tips of Discipleship:** *Do It*

**Focus Question:** *How have you built your life on the rock of Jesus Christ?*

## **word of life**

**“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.”** Matthew 7:24 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 7:21-29

Chapters five through seven of the Gospel of Matthew include an extensive series of teachings given by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The sermon concludes with a somber warning about self-deception and the foolishness of some choices. If you are unfamiliar with the Sermon of the Mount, take time to read Matthew 5-7.

1. *What important teachings are included in the Sermon of the Mount?*
2. *What would it have been like to have been in the audience and to hear the Sermon of the Mount?*
3. *How do most sermons or teachings conclude?*
4. *What do you think about ending a long sermon with a somber warning, such as in the Sermon of the Mount?*

Jesus appears to be quite realistic in Matthew 7:21-23. There are many who cry out, “Lord, Lord”, but do not really believe in Jesus. Some might even be able to do amazing acts such as prophesy, cast out demons, and perform deeds of power – all in the name of Jesus. Yet, some of them will not enter heaven.

5. *How can that be?*
6. *Why might some people not be able to enter the kingdom of heaven?*
7. *How can some people do mighty acts in the name of Jesus and not be connected to him?*

It is clear Jesus expects people to hear his words and act accordingly. He does not provide a middle ground for indecision. At this point, Jesus provides the classic illustration of a wise man who builds his house on a rock. That home withstands rain, floods, and winds.

8. *What does Jesus mean for a person to be wise?*
9. *How is wisdom connected to Jesus?*

The foolish person hears the words of Jesus, but does not build his or her life accordingly. It is like a foolish person who builds a house on sand. The rain, floods, and winds blow the house away.

10. *What does Jesus mean when he describes a person as foolish?*
11. *What prevents people from hearing and responding to Jesus?*

The crowds who hear these teachings are stunned by the authority of Jesus. He challenges each person to be actively engaged as a disciple and to build a life on the solid rock of Jesus’ teachings. He expects an obedient response. Jesus claims his authority by God and clearly sets expectations which carry consequences. Not all who utter words of faith have built their lives on the foundation of the rock of Jesus Christ.

## **word among us**

Samson had attended worship every Sunday of his life. It was part of his well-regimented life. Worship was the only thing he did at the church – nothing more and nothing less. Life was going along quite well as anticipated. God did not seem to bother Samson and he did not bother God. Samson felt the arrangement worked quite nicely.

Then, things began to fall apart. Samson lost his job when his company was purchased by a bigger company from out of state. It didn't matter the quality of his work, nor his total commitment to his job. Relationships started to crumble. When Samson had no more money to splurge with his friends, they stopped calling him. Samson began to re-evaluate all aspects of life. Where did Samson want to invest his time and energy? Who needed God if God abandoned a person in his or her hour of need?

1. *If Samson came to you and asked about the absence of God in his life, what would you say?*
2. *How might Samson expand his church activity in order to become closer to Jesus Christ?*
3. *How might a personal crisis bring someone closer to God?*

Jesus talked about wise and foolish people, reflecting on a person's choice in building a life. Jesus wants action. He wants obedient disciples. The expression is "Just do it!" Make decisions on Jesus and the sure foundation of his teaching.

The illustration given by Jesus of people who build their homes on rock or on sand is helpful. A house is a large investment of income. Hopefully, homeowners have been deliberate in choosing the location of a house and calculating the risk of loss. If a house is destroyed by storms, that loss includes the building, possessions, as well as financial investment. Keep in mind Jesus uses this illustration in a pre-insurance policy world.

4. *How do you relate to this illustration?*
5. *What does it feel like to realize you have made a foolish decision?*
6. *How does God respond when we acknowledge our foolishness and mistakes?*

We never graduate from discipleship school; nor is a life of faith a one-time decision. Each of us as a disciple of Jesus Christ is a work in progress. Within the course of a day, week, or month, we have opportunities to continually build our spiritual house on rock or sand. The Holy Spirit continues to be at work, helping us to hear and act on the teaching of Jesus and the will of God. Hopefully, we make time for worship, prayer, service, study, and Christian fellowship. We need to spend time with God's Word and the support of other disciples as they bless us through their words of support and challenge.

7. *How does one build life on the rock of Jesus?*
8. *What might need to change in your life in order for you to be both a hearer and doer of God's Word?*

## **Prayer**

Lord, open my ears to hear your Word and build my life on your teachings. Amen

## **Dig Deeper**

Psalm 46

## **last word**

Each day this week,  
be aware of your choices you make.  
Ponder how those choices reflect your faith in Jesus.



*Daily Discipleship*

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