

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, We come before you, the creator of the universe, the one who placed the stars in the sky, the one who causes the sun to rise, the one who sets the boundaries for the oceans and we ask that you will be our guide this morning. We ask that you would help us, all of us. Would you guide the words of my mouth and would you open our ears, and the eyes of our hearts to hear wonderful things from your word. And may your word change us. Let us not leave this place the same way as when we came in, but let us leave changed because we have heard from you. We ask that you would make us an obedient people, through the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

## Introduction

Anyone who hears the words of Jesus has a choice to make. Anyone who was sitting on the hill that day, listening to Jesus' sermon, when it was over, was faced with making a decision about what they were going to do with what they had just heard. Anyone who reads or hears his words is faced with a choice that must be made before they can do anything else, namely, what will they do with the words they have just heard? How will the words of Jesus impact them?

And you and I are not in a different position. We've been going through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount for the past six months and every week, we leave this building, we leave this gathering and we're faced with the question: **What will we do with the words we just heard?** Will we let the words of Jesus change us to be more merciful toward others? Will we become more forgiving people after hearing Jesus speak? Will we manage our anger? Will we seek reconciliation? Will we view our marriage differently? Will we pray differently? Will we give differently? Will we fast differently? Will we view our money differently? Will we continue to seek earthly treasures? Be anxious about what we'll eat, about what we'll drink, about what we'll wear? ----- What path will we choose? The narrow or the wide? **Will the words of Jesus have an impact on our life? Will Jesus' words actually change us?**

As we've been going through The King's Speech, our series on Jesus' sermon on the mount, over the past 6 months, Jesus has continually placed in front of us the characteristics of his kingdom, the traits of the people of his kingdom. He's been saying, "I've come to establish a new kingdom, a different kingdom. It's not like the kingdoms you know and the people in it are different as well." And we are faced with the very same question as everyone who has heard his words before us: What are we going to do in response to the words of Jesus?

And it's the same for everyone, without regard for race, gender, or socio-economic status. Whether you are single or married, young or old, widowed or divorced, rich or poor, have a great career or jobless, if you're an addict or a tee-totaller, whether you're from North Brunswick or the North Pole. We are all faced with this very question: What will you **DO** in response to hearing the words of Jesus?

So it should come as no surprise that as we find ourselves in this morning's passage, at the end of Jesus' speech, he places that question front and center for us to consider. Let's read it, Matthew, chapter 7, verses 24 through 27. If you want to use one of the Bibles provided in the seat in front of you, you'll find this morning's passage on page 812.

*[24] "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [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 7:24-27 ESV)*

## Two Types of People

Jesus ends his sermon with this familiar parable about the very dilemma that I just introduced: What will you do with the words you've just heard? And Jesus doesn't provide many options. In fact, Jesus says that there are only options: **either you will hear his words and do them or you will hear his words and do nothing. There is no third option!** There is no spectrum here, it is a binary reality that when you hear Jesus speak, when you read the words of God, you have two options, you either see them as beautiful, as desirable, as the way to salvation and you do them, or you see them as something else and don't do them.

Last week we saw that there are *many* people who will profess the name of Jesus, and they have even done great and mighty works in his name, yet Jesus will say that he never knew them, why? Verse 23 tells us it is because they are workers of lawlessness. They are wicked. They didn't do the things Jesus said they should do and even though they preached in his name, and had cast out demons in his name, because they did not obey him, Jesus "will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." (Matt 7:23)

And it's from that viewpoint that we see Jesus this morning say, "Everyone then", or in other translations, "Therefore", or "because" or "since". So because not everyone who professes my name will enter the kingdom, let me tell you this parable, let me give you the dilemma. And he goes on to tell a story about two types of people, about two builders, that hear Jesus speak.

So this morning, I want to look at three questions: First, What do these two types of people have in common? Second, what about them is distinct, or different? And third, what are the outcomes for each of them. Again, What do they have in common, what is different and what happens to each of them?

### Similarities

Let's look at that first question. What do the listeners of Jesus have in common? What is similar about them? What you probably recognize is that the stories of the two builders are very similar, in fact, without the commentary at the end of each story, there are only 5 words different in the two stories. So, what we can gather is that there are many similarities between the two types of people who hear Jesus' story. This is important because Jesus is pinpointing the difference between them. He isn't creating a story of two wildly different people, he is telling a story of two very similar people, who had two different responses to his teaching.

Both heard the words of Jesus (verses 24a, 26a)

The first similarity between the two types of people is found in the first half of verses 24 and 26. Verse 24 says,

*Everyone then who hears these words of mine (Matt 7:24)*

And the first half of verse 26

*And everyone who hears these words of mine (Matt 7:26)*

What we see in these two verses is that both types of people have heard the words of Jesus. He's speaking to a group of people gathered on a hillside and they've been listening to him speak for a while and he sets them up by saying, everyone who hears these words of mine. Translation: Everyone here. He's qualifying all of them and saying, "This is for you. All of you who have been sitting here, listening to me speak, this is for you. All of you." And he is saying that to us, all of you who hear these words are the targets for this final teaching that Jesus is delivering. If you're here today, if you've been here over the past 6 months, if you've listened online, if you've read the Sermon on the Mount, you are who Jesus is addressing.

Jesus is addressing all of the people who have heard his words. The implication of that is that also means he isn't addressing those who haven't heard his words. This teaching is for people who have heard Jesus, who have heard him teach, who have listened to his words. The two types of people Jesus is addressing are people who have heard him speak.

The two people that Jesus is describing have this in common, they have both heard his words. There is nothing different between the two listeners along the lines of what they have heard, it isn't that one had heard the words of Jesus and the other hadn't, they were both listeners, they had both heard. Jesus makes it very clear, by using the very same language, that the hearers of this teaching are similar in that they are those who have heard his words.

Both built houses after hearing (verses 24b, 26b)

The second similarity between the two types of people is that they both built houses. If we look at the second half of verses 24 and 26 we see that.

*[the first] will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24)*

And verse 26

*[the second] will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand (Matthew 7:24)*

Again, we see the almost the exact same language used by Jesus to show that the two people aren't that different. They are similar in that after hearing the words of they both respond in a way that Jesus likens to a builder, who builds a house.

*What is the house?*

Jesus is showing us through this illustration that everyone who hears his words will respond to his words in, at least at some level, the same way. We will all be like builders who build a house. So I have to ask the question, what does the house represent? If everyone who hears the words of Jesus responds, metaphorically, by building a house, what is the house? Is it our lives? Is it our souls? Is it us? Is it our faith? What is it?

I believe the house represents this: **It is the hope with which we plan to stand before God on the judgement day.** The house in Jesus' parable represents those things that we build and put our hope in so that when we stand before God on the final day of judgement we can plead to be accepted.

Jesus says that everyone who hears him speak responds like a builder who builds a house. Those that hear Jesus speak respond by building some justification, some argument with which they hope to be saved. For some it is that they are a good person. For others it is that they are better than their neighbor. Some build their metaphorical house out of their knowledge about God and for others, their house is built with that empty belief that there is no such thing as salvation, that there is nothing to be saved from, and for others it is built with the promises of Jesus, himself. Everyone who hears Jesus speak, builds a house, creates something with which they will stand before God at the final judgement day.

And so in response to Jesus words, all people respond, at some level the same way, they are like a builder who build a house. In the story, the house isn't given much attention. Jesus doesn't tell us about the size of the house, the color, the style, whether it was well built. But what we can assume that one wasn't inferior to the other. **Jesus doesn't tell us the much about the houses because the house isn't the focus.** No, he doesn't tell us anything other than after hearing Jesus' words each person responds by building a metaphorical house.

Both faced the storm (verses 25a, 27a)

So the two types of people are similar in that they both heard the words of Jesus and they both respond like a builder building a house and the final similarity we see is that they will both face a storm. The beginning of verses 25 and 27 are exactly the same, look at it with me:

*And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house  
(Matthew 7:25)*

And verse 27 is the same,

*And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house  
(Matthew 7:27)*

Not only does each person hear the same words from Jesus and respond by building a house, they all end up facing the same situation; rain, floods and fierce wind. **They both faced the storm.** Jesus explains through the parable that all people will face the storm. This goes against what we may like to hear as Christians, as followers of Christ. We often find ourselves thinking that, as Christians, we get to escape the storm, but what Jesus is clearly saying is that the storm comes against all of us. Both types of people, everyone who hears the words of Jesus will find themselves, at some point, looking squarely into a storm.

Now, while it is true that we all face storms in our lives, we all face tough times, I don't think those types of things are what Jesus is talking about here. When we look at the previous teaching from Jesus in chapter 7, the focus has been on the final judgement; that appointed time when we will all stand in front of the Almighty God and make an account for our lives. Verses 13 and 14 are about the wide gate that leads to destruction and the narrow gate that leads to life. In verse 19, Jesus explains that trees that don't bear good fruit are cut down and burned in the fire and in verse 21-23, as we heard last week, Jesus tells us that there are some who will enter the kingdom of heaven and others who won't, to which he will say, "Depart from me.". So keeping that context in mind, I conclude that what Jesus is talking about when he talks of the rains, floods and wind is not the trials, temptations and struggles of everyday life, but the final judgement day. **Jesus is saying that we are all going to face the same judgement.** The

book of Hebrews tells us that we will all stand before God one day and face his judgement, and this seems to be what Jesus is referring to with the metaphorical storm.

There are three similarities between everyone who hears Jesus; they hear the same thing, build the same thing and face the same thing. So that is true of us, we have all heard the words of Jesus, and as a result we will all build a house, we will build a framework upon which we will base our salvation and we will all face, at some point, judgement from God.

## Distinctions

And so as we see that there are three similarities between everyone who hears Jesus speak, we see in the story that Jesus says that the two types of people who hear him speak have one striking and definite distinction: What will they do after they hear him speak. The thrust of Jesus' story isn't if they heard, the point, the thing that separates the two groups of people is **what did they do with what they heard**.

While the similarities are interesting because they show that they everyone hears the same thing, they all build the same thing, they all face the same thing, that distinction between them is important because it is the hinge upon which the outcome swings. The similar inputs didn't result in similar results and so understanding that distinction is integral to understanding Jesus' point.

## Doing vs. not doing

The distinguishing characteristic that separates the people who listen to Jesus is whether or not they obey what he says. Again, the thing that distinguishes the two types of people who hear Jesus speak is whether or not they obey what he says Jesus says. What distinguishes his listeners is how they respond to his words. Look at verses 24 and 26 with me again.

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

And verse 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. (Matthew 7:26)*

While there are similarities between the people who hear his words, Jesus points out that there is one significant distinction between them: One does them and the other doesn't. **The issue at hand is obedience to Jesus**. The difference isn't that one heard the words of Jesus and the other didn't, we've already seen that both heard. The difference is that one obeys and one doesn't. One is a doer and one isn't. One type of person hears the words and does them, does what Jesus says the people of his Kingdom do and lives the life people of his Kingdom live and the other doesn't. After you hear Jesus speak, after you read his words do you strive to live your life doing what he says? That is the question Jesus raises for his listeners and for us and it is how Jesus separates his listeners into two groups.

We would be wise to note the order that Jesus used. The order is this: first hear and then do. Doing is a response to hearing. Jesus says the first thing we need to do is hear and in response to hearing, we then go and do. Jesus started by teaching his listeners and he spent chapters 5, 6 and most of 7 teaching and it is just now that he is encouraging us to do what he taught. He didn't start with doing, he started by

teaching. The distinction between the two is not that one hears and one does. The distinction is that after they both hear the words of Jesus, one does them and the other does not.

But the question is: Are you choosing to do what you've heard Jesus say? Are you hungering and thirsting for righteousness (5:6)? Are you being merciful (5:7)? Are you meek (5:5)? Are you pure in heart (5:8)? Are you seeking to be a peacemaker (5:9)? Are you reconciling with those with whom you are angry (5:24)? Are you controlling your lustful thoughts (5:28)? Are you not retaliating (5:39)? Are you loving your enemies (5:44)? Are you giving to the needy for the right reasons (6:3)? Are you fasting (6:17)? Are you praying (7:11)? Are you laying up your treasures in heaven (6:20)? Are you refusing to judge others (7:5)? Are you treating others the way you want to be treated (7:12)?

**Jesus emphasized that what separates the two types of people is not *if* they respond to his teaching, but *how* they respond to his teaching.** Will they hear his words and do them, or will they hear his words and do nothing? **Those are the two options for people who hear the words of Jesus, you either do them or you don't, there is no third option!**

#### Wise vs. foolish

Jesus goes on to say that the way we respond to his words demonstrates that we are either like a wise man or like a foolish man. One response is considered wise, while the other response is considered foolish. Look at verses 24 and 26 again with me:

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

And verse 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. (Matthew 7:26)*

The doer, the one who hears and does is wise and the one who hears and doesn't do is foolish. The wise man represents the person who is obedient and the foolish man represents the person who does not obey the words of Jesus.

However, both still build a house. The wise man, the one who does what Jesus says builds his house and the foolish man, the one who hears Jesus but doesn't obey still builds a house. The distinction isn't in the houses, the distinction is what they build their houses on.

#### Building on rock vs. building on sand

Look again at verses 24 and 26:

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

And verse 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**. (Matthew 7:26)*

What Jesus is showing us is that the difference between the wise person and the foolish person is what they build their house on, not the type of house they build. The one who obeys Jesus is like a wise person who builds his house on the bedrock. Luke 6, tells us that this meant that the wise man has to dig down deep to get to the bedrock to lay the foundation. There is work involved in building the house, but the wise man knows that it is worth it because he understands that the house doesn't matter without the foundation.

The foolish man, or the one who hears the words of Jesus and doesn't do them, doesn't spend the time or do the work to dig down to build the foundation on the rock, instead, he just starts building. The foolish man doesn't value the importance of the foundation and instead focuses on building the house.

## Two Outcomes

So Jesus has framed up for us this scenario for his listeners: There are two types of people. All of you have heard the words I've just spoke, you've just sat through my sermon and some of you will be wise and build your house on a rock in response, and some of you will be foolish and build your house on the sand. And we're in the same position. We've heard the words of Jesus and some of us will respond with obedience and be like the wise man who builds his house on the rock and others will leave and be like the foolish man who builds his house on the sand, without a foundation. **And Jesus tells us that our choice has massive implications.** You may say, what's the difference? Why does it matter whether I obey him or not, but Jesus says the response we have to his words is not a trivial matter, it is a choice that has massive implications because when the storm comes, these two types of people have tremendously different outcomes.

Look at verses 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. (Matthew 7:25)*

The storm came against both houses, the rain came, the floods came, the winds blew and beat against the house. Neither of the builders were spared from these things, but the outcome for each of them is catastrophically different.

## Weathering the storm

You see, the one who hears the words of Jesus and obeys him is like the wise man who builds his house on the rock and when the storm comes, his house does not fall. His house weathers the storm. Why? Look at verse 25 again, the house did not fall, why, **because it had been founded on the rock.** The house didn't stand firm because it was well built, it didn't fall because it was built on the rock. Said another way, the house stood not because it was solidly built, but because it was built on something solid.

The metaphor Jesus provides for us is very clear: If you hear my words and obey them, when the judgement comes, you will not fall.

## A mighty fall

But when we look at verse 27, we see a very different outcome for the one who hears but doesn't obey.

And verse 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 7:27)*

While this house experienced the same storm, or at the very least the same type of storm as the house built by the wise man, this house did not experience such a fortunate outcome. On the contrary, the house that the foolish man built fell, and Jesus emphasizes it fall by saying, “and great was the fall of it.”

So why did it fall? Was it a difference between the two houses? No! **The only conclusion Jesus allows us to make is that the reason the house fell is because it wasn't built on the right foundation!** It wasn't built on the right thing. You see, the point is not the house, neither of the houses stood or fell because of the house, both experienced their fates because of their foundations. The emphasis from Jesus is that **the house isn't the point! The point is what the house was built on. What determines whether our house stands or falls is what it is built on, namely, is it built on the hearing and doing the teachings of Jesus Christ!**

The point of the parable is simply this: If you hear what I say and do it, you're life, your hope for salvation, is built on the right foundation, a solid foundation. You're placing your trust for salvation on the right thing, namely, my words.

**Jesus is instructing us to obey him because our obedience is evidence that our house will stand on the day of judgement.** Our ability to stand at the judgement day isn't determined by the theology we know, or by how many Sundays we went to church, or the verses we know, or the Greek we know, if we aren't actively obeying Jesus, performing the beatitudes, our house is built upon sand and the when judgement comes, it will fall and it's destruction will be great not only because the house that was built was large, but because of the devastation it will bring to the builder.

## The Foundation

So what will you do? Will you be a doer and obey his words or will you just hear him and not do anything and leave unchanged?

Some of you are hearing your legalistic alarms going off like crazy right now. And let's be real for a second, they went off in my head. The warnings telling me that Christianity isn't a list of rules to follow. I hear what Jesus says and I say, “I don't like that! I've been freed from that” But I can't avoid what Jesus says and when I look at all of Jesus' teaching, I'm comforted that what Jesus is teaching is that obedience to what he says is evidence that he has saved us. **He's not teaching that in order to be saved, you better do all that he says, but he is surely saying that if you are saved, you better be trying to do what he says.** Christianity is not about following rules in order to be saved, it is obedience to Jesus because we are saved. Jesus is calling us into a new life of freedom, not of legalism and rule-following, he's calling you into a life of obedience, a life in his Kingdom.

Some others might be saying, “Isn't that works salvation? We've been saved by faith alone.” But again, Jesus isn't saying that is our obedience that saves us, rather, he is saying it is our obedience that proves we have been saved. Our obedience to Jesus is like a wise man, who knows to build his house on the rock. Jesus died so we don't have to accomplish our own salvation because we couldn't if we had to, we would all fail. However, Jesus isn't saying that those who obey him accomplish their own salvation, but instead, that those who obey him prove that they have in fact been saved by him.



So let me be very clear, neither I, nor Jesus, are saying that what you do, your works, deeds and obedience save you. **But what we do is incredibly important.** Jesus tells another parable in Matthew 25, of the sheep and the goats and the only difference between the sheep who will inherit the kingdom that was prepared for them and the goats who were cursed is what they did and didn't do. **What we do is important because it demonstrates that our foundation is Jesus.**

You see, our deeds, our obedience to Jesus is not, in the words of the parable, the foundation on which we build our house, our obedience to him is the evidence we've built our house upon the rock, the truths of His kingdom. Everyone who hears my words and does them is like a wise man who built his house on a rock, he says, our obedience is evidence we have built upon the rock.

First John 3 says affirms this when John writes,

*[23] And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] **Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him.** And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (1 John 3:23-24 ESV)*

Not only are we to believe in the name of Jesus, but we are to keep his commandments and our keeping of God's commandments shows that we abide in God and he in us. Our faith is only true faith if it results in obedience to God's words.

**Jesus is telling us through this parable, through this story, that it isn't enough to just hear his words.** It isn't enough to sit and listen to him, but we must obey in response to them. If we simply hear his words and don't respond with obedience to them, we're foolish and building our house upon the sand, upon the foundation that simply hearing Jesus and knowing about Jesus is enough, but Jesus is telling us clearly in this story that it isn't. He's saying that hearing his words and not doing them is evidence that you didn't understand them.

James, the little brother of Jesus and pastor of the church in Jerusalem, writes in chapter 2 of his letter,

*[18] But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20] Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? (James 2:18-20 ESV)*

James agrees with Jesus and with John in that our faith isn't really faith if it isn't accompanied by works. He says that even the demons believe and shudder, even they believe in God, even they know scripture, even they know about Jesus and they shudder because they know that they don't obey him, instead, they rebel against him. According to James, John and Jesus, our faith must be accompanied by obedience, or it really isn't faith. Our faith, without obedience is building our argument to God on the Judgement day upon the simple fact that we heard what he said. It's like a house built upon sand, that when the time comes to test it, it will fall. He says, that true faith is faith that results in obedience to Jesus. If we simply hear the words of Jesus and don't respond with obedience to them, we don't have faith.

## We must be hearers

You see, **we need to be more than just hearers of Jesus' words, we need to be doers of Jesus's words.** James, said earlier in his letter

*[22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.  
(James 1:22 ESV)*

James put it very clearly and exposed the issue that if we are only hearing the words of Jesus and not doing them, we “deceiving ourselves”, we’re foolish. Why are we deceiving ourselves? Because if we hear the words of Jesus and don’t do them, we haven’t understood them. We deceive ourselves that hearing the words is enough, but it isn’t.

Jesus puts such an emphasis on this distinction, it is the only difference between the two listeners of his words. The one who listens and obeys builds on a foundation that will hold when the storm comes and the one who doesn’t obey builds a house that will be destroyed when the storm comes.

Jesus is calling us not only to hear his words, but to do them. We are to hear the word and do the word, we must do both. We can't just do and we can't just hear. **If we hear his words and do them, we show that we have been saved by him.**

To be sure, we must hear the words of Jesus, but we must not be hearers only. Some of us like to hear the words of Jesus, they make us feel good. We like them because they’re challenging, at times rebellious and we like the idea of Jesus and hearing his words.

We like to study his words. We may know the greek, we may have spent countless hours with the words of Jesus and we might even say they love the words of Jesus, yet some, when it comes to doing the words of Jesus, don’t do them. They’re like a person who orders a piece of furniture from Ikea and when the box comes they open the box quickly, grab the instructions, sit down at their desk and study the instructions. They read through it multiple times and they start to memorize it. They’re amazed at the pictures and the prose used to provide the instructions for putting the piece together and they start to research it more. They go online and find the Swedish version of the instructions so they can read it in its original language and see it in its original form. And they start to compare the Swedish and English versions for differences and then they invite their friends over and explain to them how interesting the instructions are. “Look at how clear and simple they are”, they exclaim. And they form an online community to talk about the instructions and, they just love these instructions. They order more furniture so they can get the instructions and then their spouse comes home and they run to tell him or her all about how beautiful the Ikea furniture is and showing pictures in the catalog and explaining the intricacies of the instructions and when the spouse asks one simple question, “Can I see what you’ve built?”, it all comes crashing down. The knowledge of the furniture did nothing to put it together and all of the “hearing” still left a flat-packed box of pieces in the middle of the kitchen.

We must be doers of Jesus’ words. We can’t simply know about him. **It isn’t enough to hear Jesus speak and believe that he is bringing a new kingdom, we must be an active part of his kingdom by doing what he says.** We can’t simply sit through the King’s speech and think how novel it is, how profound it is, how wonderful Jesus’ teaching is, but we must obey in response to it. It isn’t enough to hear Pastor Reid say that in chapter 7, verse 12, when Jesus says,

*[12] "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12 ESV)*

And hear that it is the only major world religion that puts the concept in the positive, meaning, do unto others what you would want or wish done to you, in contrast to don't do to others what you don't want done to you, it isn't enough to hear that and think, man, Jesus was cool. That's awesome that he said that in that way and then not do it. On the contrary, we must do what Jesus has told us to do as his followers. We must apply it in our daily lives, at home, at work, in our Missional Communities, in our lives. If we aren't actively striving to treat our parents, our co-workers, our neighbors, our roommates, our classmates, our friends, our spouses, those we meet at the women's shelter, the teens in our streets, our kids, our enemies, if we aren't actively trying to treat them the way we would want to be treated we're not doing what Jesus said and that, we see, has serious consequences.

**Jesus didn't come to earth, didn't suffer a terrible death on the cross as a substitute for our sins so that we could read his words and find them interesting. He died for us so we would find him and his words compelling, that in hearing him speak we would be compelled to do what he says. If we don't, we're missing the point of his life, death and resurrection. We must be hearers of the word, but we must also be doers.**

### [We must be doers](#)

On the other hand, we must be careful not to become people who just do without first hearing. We can't be doers only

**The Christian life, the life of a follower of Jesus is about hearing AND doing.** It can't be just one of them and that's what Jesus is teaching in this parable. God didn't love us, Jesus didn't come to earth, didn't die, didn't rise again so we could simply agree with this truth, but God planned all of this from before the foundation of the world so that we could love him, obey him and live our life for him. When we do that, we show that our life is built on the words of Jesus, on Jesus himself. And when the rains come, and the floods rise, and the wind beats against us, our house will not fall because it is built on the rock, the rock of Jesus.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians,

*[5] Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV)*

How can we examine ourselves to see if we're in the faith, Jesus says one way is to examine if you're doing what he says.

### [Conclusion](#)

Jesus closes his sermon with the simple illustration because it summarizes the position where in and asks the question; What are you going to do with what you've just heard? Will you obey and be like the wise builder who builds his house on a rock by hearing Jesus' words so that when the storm comes it won't fall? Or will you hear and not obey and be like the foolish builder who builds his house on the sand and suffers great devastation when the rain comes.

Jesus gives us a warning, but he also gives us encouragement. He says, everyone who hears these words of mine and does them, and that can be you, your house will not fall. That's a promise! If you would simply hear his words and respond with obedience to them, with faith, you can be like the wise man who, even though the storm comes, won't fall. That's the beauty of Christianity, you don't have to get yourself fixed in order to come to Jesus, you come to Jesus to get fixed. You don't have to be cleaned up before you can come to him, instead you come to him and he makes you clean. Simply hear his words and respond with faith and you're accepted in. Jesus isn't asking for perfect obedience, he's already been perfectly obedient for you. He's simply encouraging you, hear my words and show your faith by doing them.

## Closing prayer

## Intro to communion

And just like every Sunday, we provide the opportunity for you to respond to the words of Jesus through the taking of communion. Jesus says that when we eat of the cup and drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of him and so we invite you to hear the words of Jesus and do them by coming down the center aisle, tear off a piece of bread, dip it in either the wine or the juice, eat it and then return to your seat by way of one of the side aisles. If you're not a follower of Jesus, if you still don't know whether you want to turn your life over to him or not, we invite you to think about what you've just heard. He's inviting you to hear him and obey him, to build on a foundation that will not fail. Come when you're ready.