



*Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus*  
*The Wise and Foolish Builders*

**Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49**

**Lesson 1**

The story of the wise and foolish builders is Jesus' conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount; the finale to His awesome teachings that rocked and astonished those who heard it. But hearing wasn't enough; being able to say "I was there" fell short. This parable is a warning to those who heard His words who were walking down the mount possibly settling for astonishment. Jesus cautioned them, as these words caution us, the wise man responds to what he hears by doing. May we be found in that category, wise women whose houses/lives stand in the storms.

**OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
  
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of this parable. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. As you mark key words, mark any personal pronouns or other words that refer to the key word (i.e. words such as *He*, *Mine*, or *Lord* for *Jesus* or the word *it* as it refers to *house*).  
Key Words: *Jesus*, *wise man*, *foolish man*, *floods/rain/stream/winds*, *house*, *fall/fell*, *do/does/did*, *does not/did nothing*, and *rock*
  - a. Terms of conclusion also aid in understanding a passage. Jesus used the term of conclusion *therefore* in Matthew 7:24 to conclude His sayings in His Sermon on the Mount, basically teaching: "I have taught you these things. Now, *therefore* do them." Mark the word *therefore* in Matthew 7:24.
  - b. The contrasting word *but* is used three times (Matthew 7:26, Luke 6:46, Luke 6:49). Mark each time this word is used.
    - 1.) Choose one of the times this word is used. Record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

4. Complete the following chart by listing what the verses reveal about the *wise man* and the *foolish man*.

**Wise Man**

**Foolish Man**

- a. Glance at your chart and record something you discovered to be significant.

**CONSIDER THESE THINGS:**

1. What do you think is the single most important decision when it comes to building a house?
2. What is the secret to building great sand castles?
3. What do you think it would be like to ride out a violent thunderstorm, hurricane, or tornado?
  - a. If you knew one was approaching your home, what would you do (besides flee ☺)?

**THE WISE MAN: Read Matthew 7:24,25; Luke 6:47,48**

1. According to Matthew 7:24 and Luke 6:47, what two things does the *wise man* do?
  - a. Why is it important to properly *hear* before we *do*?
  - b. Consider the word *hear* as it applies in this parable. What are some components of *hearing* God's Word?
  - c. We must be careful, not only to *hear* effectively, but also to be careful of the information we give audience to. What are some things we can expose ourselves to that can be detrimental to our *hearing*?
    - 1.) What have you learned about your own tendency to allow distracting, detrimental, or deceptive words to affect your thinking?

2. The *wise man* is not only a *hearer*, but he is a *doer*. What do the following verses say about this?

Luke 11:28

John 13:17

John 14:15

a. In what way is *doing* what you have heard, an expression of *love* to Jesus?

1.) In contrast, what message does disobedience to Jesus' commands portray?

3. Read James 1:22-25. According to verse 22, what happens when we do not follow up our *hearing* of the Word with *doing*?

a. Relate the *deception* that occurs when a person stops at *hearing*.

b. James uses an analogy in verses 23,24 to describe the one who only *hears*. In your own words, describe that man.

4. Jesus compared *wise* living to building a house on what kind of foundation? Matthew 7:24,25

a. Describe the stability of a *rock*.

b. Matthew 16 recounts the story of Jesus asking the disciples who they thought He was. Peter's response was *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*. Record Jesus' response in verse 18.

1.) What do Isaiah 28:16 and 1 Corinthians 3:10,11 add to our understanding of this *Rock*?

5. What additional information does Luke 6:48 reveal about *wise* building?
  - a. What are the benefits of digging *deep* spiritually?
  
6. *and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house...* (Matthew 7:25). We have trials and circumstances in our lives that are very much like *rain, floods, and winds*. Often it feels like they are *beating* against us. What might be some examples of these "elements"?
  - a. Notice that the *wise man* is not exempt from these natural "disasters", but rather what is the result of *wise* living and building according to Matthew 7:25 and Luke 6:48? (Notice: Luke tells us that the *stream beat vehemently against the house*)
    - 1.) Look up the following verses and record what they teach us about *standing*:  
Romans 5:2  
  
1 Corinthians 15:1  
  
Galatians 5:1
    - 2.) Not only must our foundation be strong to be able to *stand*, our *house* (lives) must be properly established defensively. What does Ephesians 6:11,13, and 14 promise us about *standing*?
      - a.) Practically what are we called to do to ensure that we *stand*?
  
7. What simple explanation is given in Matthew 7:25 and Luke 6:48 as to why the *wise* man's house *stood*?
  - a. If someone who was being thrashed by the storms of life asked you what it means to have a house *founded on the rock*, what would you say to them?

**THE FOOLISH MAN: Read Matthew 7:26,27 and Luke 6:46,49**

1. According to Luke 6:46, how does the *foolish man* differ from the *wise man*?
  - a. What is an example of this today?
  
2. In contrast to building his house on the *rock*, what does the *foolish man* do?
  - a. Describe the difference between a *rock* and *sand*.
  
3. As believers, we claim to believe the commands of Jesus. Why do you think we many times fail to heed them?
  - a. Jesus calls us to follow His commands. List a few of them.
    - 1.) Consider a command that you have *heard* but are not *doing*. How do you think your disobedience affects your ability to *stand* in the storms of life?
  
4. The very same *rains, floods, and winds* beat upon the *foolish man's house*. What was the result? Matthew 7:27 and Luke 6:49
  - a. What are some examples of *falling* in this life?
  
  - b. Why is simply knowing (*hearing*) the Word of God not enough to keep us from *falling*?
  
5. Recount the warnings about *falling* from these verses:  
1 Corinthians 10:12  
1 Timothy 6:9  
Hebrews 4:10,11  
2 Peter 3:17
  - a. In what way do these verses challenge you?

6. According to Jude 1:24, the Lord is able to *keep us from stumbling*. What does Jude 1:21 teach us is our part?
  - a. How does maintaining a *love* relationship with Jesus keep us from *falling* or *stumbling*?

**REVIEW:**

1. What have you discovered when you stand on the rock as a *doer* when the rains and floods of life descend on you?
  
2. What will you do to be ready for the next storm that hits your life?
  
3. In what ways have you been challenged by this parable?

*My sheep **hear** My voice, and I know them, and they **follow** Me.*  
- John 10:27

## Observation Worksheet

### Matthew 7:24-27

"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: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

### Luke 6:46-49

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? <sup>47</sup> Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup> But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."