

The Builders

Psalm 1:1-6; Matthew 7:24-29 / Hosea 8:1-14

I. Jesus Gathers a Particular Kind of Follower

A. Jesus summons people who find the world burdensome to their souls. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (MATTHEW 11:28-29)

B. Such people have lost confidence the world can satisfy them. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (MATTHEW 6:20-21)

C. Even this is not enough, faithful followers must also be ready to obey Jesus. If ye love me, keep my commandments. (JOHN 14:15)

D. Hypocrisy is a tawdry alternative to reality. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2)

II. Jesus Compared the Faithful and the Foolish

A. The faithful do the right thing in the right way. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (MATTHEW 7:24)

1. The parable turns on the meaning of ROCK. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (MATTHEW 16:15-16)

2. Genuine wisdom begins with proper respect for God. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. (PSALM 111:10)

3. Even people with little natural ability can understand Jesus. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (PSALM 119:130)

B. Disaster comes to faithful believers as it must to all people since the Fall. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. (MATTHEW 7:25)

C. People who know the truth but do not obey it build on insubstantial foundations. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (MATTHEW 7:26)

D. Without the right foundation, everything collapses. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (MATTHEW 7:27)

E. God will intentionally take down what ever stands in the way of righteousness. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. (MALACHI 3:3)

F. Shoddy work cannot last and God will not let it. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (1 CORINTHIANS 3:11-15)

III. Jesus Makes the Eternal Obvious

A. The force of what Jesus says is hard to ignore. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: (MATTHEW 7:28)

B. What Jesus says changes lives. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (1 CORINTHIANS 4:20)

C. The authority with which Jesus teaches is inherent. For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (MATTHEW 7:29)

D. Jesus power continues to express itself in Scripture. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (HEBREWS 4:12-13)

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