

BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

February 14, 2021

Matthew 7:24-29

1. Having concluded the Sermon on the Mount Jesus made an important application.
 - a. In response to what He had taught He encouraged His listeners to enter by the narrow gate and to walk in the narrow way.
 - b. He also warned those who heard this message to beware of false prophets; wolves who disguise themselves as shepherds of the sheep.
2. We might call all that Jesus taught here, "Rules for the Road," for those who are actually on the Narrow Way.
3. The church would have a lot more power and credibility in the world if those who claim to be Christians actually lived out biblical truth.
4. Year ago I came across the following testimony written by a Southern Baptist missionary in Ethiopia. He wrote, "I was teaching a group from an unreached people group here. We were studying the Sermon on the Mount. When I finished my explanation, one of them said, 'There is a big difference between the Bible and Christian people. What the Bible teaches and what the Christians do is not the same thing. The Bible is a book of love, but Christians don't have this love. For me it is better to study the Bible.'"
5. It is a sad thing when the lives of those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ live lives that contradict the truth He taught.
6. This passage contains two outcomes related to two groups of people; those who hear the Word of God and act on it and those who hear the Word of God and do not act on it.

I. Inevitabilities.

- A. Storms and floods are unpredictable but inevitable.
- B. Certain realities related to living in this sinful world are also inevitable; things like mistreatment, hardships, disappointments, disillusionment, illness, and death.
- C. For true followers of Jesus Christ there is also the testing and discipline that comes from the Lord. Hebrews 12:4-11 (See also Romans 5:1-5 and James 1:1-2)

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- D. What amazes me is the number of people who are surprised by and unprepared to deal with life's inevitabilities when they happen to them or to people they love.

E. There is another inevitability that we must all face, and that is the fact that we will one day stand before God either as sinners saved by grace or sinners subject to the wrath of God.

II. Foundations.

- A. Every building is constructed on some kind of foundation, and so is every life.
- B. The Bible recommends that we build our lives on a strong foundation.
 - 1. The foundation of Christ. “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid (by God), which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11
 - 2. The foundation of God’s Word. “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22
 - 3. The foundation of application and obedience. “But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:22
- C. Building a secure foundation requires faith based effort on our part.
- D. Building a secure foundation guarantees that we will not fall when the storms of life come, and that we will not face the judgment of God when this life ends.

III. Wise and foolish people.

- A. Wise people do their best to anticipate and prepare for the inevitable.
- B. Foolish people do not prepare. Illustration
Sandra and I know of a couple who lived very busy lives and rarely cooked at home. He was on staff at a church and she traveled a great deal. They were not worried when an ice storm was forecast because they thought that they would just go out to eat if they lost their power. Well the ice storm was so severe that the entire area lost power for about seven days. They had very little food in the house and no way to get any. Thankfully people from their church who did prepare took care of them.
- C. Jesus made it clear that those who hear His words and act upon them will be prepared for and sustained through every eventuality of life including death.
NOTE: The word “act” means “do something with.”
- D. He also made it clear that those who hear His words and do not act on them will be unprepared for life’s eventualities.

APPLICATION

- 1. The Sermon on the Mount should cause us to ask ourselves some questions.
 - a. Do the Beatitudes describe my character?
 - b. Am I being salt and light?
 - c. Do I possess the righteousness needed to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - d. Am I fulfilling God’s intent related to His Word?
 - e. Am I being faithful to God in the areas of giving, prayer, self-denial, laying up treasures in Heaven, trusting God, and seeking first God’s Kingdom and God’s righteousness?
 - f. Have I entered through the narrow gate, and I walking the narrow way?
 - g. Can I discern truth and error?
- 2. Those who hear and act on the Word of God will be able to answer those questions in the affirmative.
- 3. They are prepared people because they are in Christ and Christ is in them, and their faith, obedience, and response to life confirm that they are.