

## Sermon On The Mount Part 12

Firm Foundation

*Matthew 7:24-29*

*Memory Verses: Matthew 7:24*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Imagine yourself on the bottom of a very large hill; some call it a mountain. You sit there among a very large crowd of people to hear this new teacher called Jesus. He speaks from the side of the hill so all can see and hear him. You sit there enthralled at his teaching. It's not like anything you've ever heard. It makes sense but it's also practical and applicable. For the first time in your life, your relationship with the law feels like a relationship with God and not some list of chores. You want to obey everything this man says and you want to follow him wherever he goes. He talks about anger, jealousy, lust, greed, motives, righteousness, giving, prayer, lying, marriage, adultery, and true conversion verses fake religion. And as he closes he leaves you with this; **Matthew 7:24-27**.

The concept here is very clear. If you take the sermon on the mount, if you take the teachings of Jesus seriously and apply them to your life then when the storms of this life come against you, you will remain standing strong. And when your life comes to an end, if you've built your life on the foundation of Jesus and his teachings, the wrath of God will not come against you; your eternal soul will stand strong through all of eternity. That my friends is what I call a firm foundation.

But, if you don't listen to the teachings of Jesus and if you don't apply them to your lives then when the storms of life come against you, you will crumble beneath the waves. And when this life is over, the wrath of God will come against you and destroy you for all eternity. The only thing that will keep us standing strong in this life and through all eternity is a firm foundation built on Jesus Christ.

It appears at times that everything in this world is here to distract us from God's words. The things that hurt and even the things that bring us joy serve to take our eyes off of Christ and put them squarely on our flesh. Often our feelings and emotions drive us to not do what Jesus has called us to, but the exact opposite. Think of Christmas. Christmas is full of distractions, and those distractions will guide you to a decision; will I follow Christ or will I follow my heart? **Only those who keep their eyes on Jesus, regardless of what the world throws at them, will survive the storm's test.** A wise man takes the teachings of Christ to heart and uses them to navigate the trials we all inevitably face. The main point this morning is simple; **When the trials of life come and when the time for**

**eternal judgment draws near, only those who have built their life on Christ will remain.** He is our firm foundation!

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **We Need The Firm Foundation of Christ To Survive The Trials of This Life.** Let's look at Christmas. Who thinks that Christmas, though a great season, can be stressful? Growing up I look back on Christmas as some of the best times of my life and some of the worst times of my life. On December 9<sup>th</sup> 1989 my step father killed himself after him and my mom only being married for a little over a year. I remember that being a very sad and emotional Christmas. It was not a very happy time to say the least. But my mom's foundation was built on Jesus and his teachings and so she and our family did not fall. The following Christmases were very difficult for my mom and thus Christmas for a long time seemed sad. But my mom and our family's foundation was built on Christ and so we made it through. I don't know what Christmas is like for you this year or in years past, but I do know that the reason for Christmas is Jesus and if you keep your eyes on him you will find true joy in the midst of chaos.

But of course, the year is more than Christmas and this life is more than just big events. Our life at times is simply mundane or the same ole same ole. In those times we come against the trials of life. What about times of depression and sadness? Where do we turn? **Matthew 5:4**; blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. What about those who find it hard to find satisfaction? **Matthew 5:6**; blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied. What about those who are persecuted for their faith? **Matthew 5:11-12**; your reward is in heaven. What about the huge tragedies of life like murder? What if we observed **Matthew 5:23-24** and reconciled our issues first, wouldn't there be a lot less murder? Or what about adultery and divorce? Wouldn't there be a lot less of that if we observed **Matthew 5:27-28**? What about interpersonal conflict? What if we observed **Matthew 5:43-44**? Or what about poverty? What if we gave according to **Matthew 6:3**, and **6:19-21**. Or what about crippling anxiety? What if we adhered to **Matthew 6:33**? What if instead of judging others unfairly we looked to **Matthew 7:3**? And what if instead of trying to do everything in our own strength we lived according to **Matthew 7:7**?

**Is it so hard to see how living according to the words of Christ makes life better for you and for everyone around you?** It truly is a firm foundation which without we would fall into sin and destruction. Look at **Luke 6:46-49**. Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do what I tell you? We must live according to the words of Christ. We must make him our firm foundation. **When the trials of life come and when the time for eternal judgment draws near, only those who have built their life on Christ will**

remain.

The second thing we need to see is that... **We Need The Firm Foundation of Christ To Survive The Final of This Judgment.** Look again at **Matthew 7:27**. Those without Christ as their foundation; those who don't follow his words, they will fall... but notice they won't just fall. "Great was the fall of it." **Luke 6:49** says, "and the ruin of that house was great." There are falls and there are great falls. The falls of this life are traumatic to say the least. Poverty, cancer, murder, adultery, divorce, death... but none of them come close to the final fall, the great fall of eternal separation from God in hell!

When you build your life upon the sands of this world, your own intuition, your emotions, your feelings, your own strength and creativity; greed, lust, lies, anger, and manipulation and forfeit dependence upon Christ the Rock, when the waters and winds of God's judgment comes to settle accounts, there is nothing that can keep your house from falling down to hell! But **if you trust in Christ and his words then there is no wind or water that can shake you off the eternal rock of Christ.** In essence your house will stand forever!!!!

How is one guaranteed a house that can never fail? Build it on the rock! Remember the conversation between Jesus and Peter in **Matthew 16:16-18**? The confession; you are the Christ the Son of the Living God, is the Rock on which Jesus builds his Church and it is the rock on which we must also build our houses. **When the trials of life come and when the time for eternal judgment draws near, only those who have built their life on Christ will remain.**

### Application

The passage for today and the sermon on the mount as a whole ends in **Matthew 7:28-29**. When Jesus spoke his most famous words the crowds were not just pondering them, not just nodding in approval, they were astonished! Why? Cause it had authority! Listen, these aren't just the words of another preacher! These are the words of God, the only one who has the authority to direct our lives and judge our souls!

So, have you heard these words? Have you truly heard the words of Christ? Not the words filtered through human opinions? Have you heard what Christ is saying? The sermon on the mount makes is plainly clear! Secondly, have you put your faith and trust upon these words? Do you believe that Jesus is the ultimate authority? Do you believe that he is the words of life? Have you lived your life according to these words? Are you depending upon these words for a better life here and an eternal life later?

### Conclusion

There is only one foundation you can truly depend on! Is Christ your firm foundation? At Christmas it has been said that If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

This Christmas, make Christ the rock on which you stand! **When the trials of life come and when the time for eternal judgment draws near, only those who have built their life on Christ will remain**