

SERMON PASSAGE GUIDE

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This Week's Passage

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall." ²⁸ When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.



Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Reflect/Connect

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

- Think about a time when a sudden crisis or "storm" in life exposed what you were really relying on. What did that experience reveal about where you place your trust?
- Why is it so easy to be a passive consumer of good teaching rather than an active doer of it?

Grow in the Word

These questions are designed to guide your personal study, or spark spiritual conversation in your Life Group.

Jesus concludes His sermon with a vivid illustration of two builders. One wisely builds his house on the rock by hearing and doing Jesus' words, while the other foolishly builds on the sand by hearing but not obeying. When the storm comes, the true foundation is revealed (v. 24-27).

- What does it practically look like to "hear and act" Jesus' words in the context of the Sermon on the Mount? Consider also James 1:22-25.
- Why might someone hear Jesus' teaching and still fail to act on it? What are some common barriers that keep people from acting on Jesus' words?
- Jesus describes the same storm hitting both houses. What does this teach about the role of trials or difficulty in revealing the true foundation of a person's life?

Matthew describes the crowd's reaction to the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They were astonished at Jesus' teaching because He spoke with authority, unlike their scribes (v. 28-29).

- How does recognizing Jesus' authority call for a different response than simply treating His words as good advice or instruction?
- Based on the parable of the builders, why is being amazed or impressed by Jesus completely insufficient on its own? Take a look at the warning in Ezekiel 33:31-32.
- Jesus ends His sermon not just with a warning, but with an invitation. What kind of true security is offered to the person who stops treating Jesus' words as just good ideas and begins to obey Him?

Practice Together

This section offers a simple way to live out the truths of the passage in everyday life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

- Take time this week to identify one specific teaching from the Sermon on the Mount that you have heard but not consistently practiced. Ask God for clarity and courage to act on it this week.
- Share that step with a trusted friend, family member, or your Life Group, and invite them to follow up with you. Build your life on the rock by taking one intentional step of obedience this week.

