

Life Group Guide Matt 7:24–27 “Building a Home that Stands in the Storm” For the Sermon Preached on Sun May 14 and For Use in Life Groups through Sun May 21

Icebreaker Question

What was your least favorite part of yard work or farm work when you were younger?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

I. A home that stands in the storm is built on God’s Word (v. 24).

- a. The foundation determines the strength of the home.
 - i. What did these two builders have in common (vv. 24, 26)?
 - 1. Both builders heard the warning.
 - 2. Both builders lived in their houses after the warning.
 - 3. Both builders built their houses in the same location.
 - ii. The differences between the builders and their houses were not immediately noticeable from the outside (vv. 24, 26).
 - 1. The foundation was different.
 - 2. The effort was different.
- b. Foundational principles for raising godly children.
 - i. Recognize that raising godly children does not happen naturally (Deut. 6:6-9).
 - ii. Know what you want your children to look like as adults (2 Tim 3:14-15).
 - iii. Define for your children what it means to be a Christ follower (Rom 12:1-2).
 - iv. Strive to live like Christ personally (1 Cor 11:1).
 - v. Use practical teachings from God’s Word to guide your children through the stages of life (2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - vi. Be purposeful to talk about the specific character traits you want your child to have (Rom 12:9-21).
 - vii. Always remember you are in a spiritual battle when raising godly kids (Eph 6:10-20)

II. A home that stands in the storm is prepared for the coming storm (v. 25).

- a. Why is it that so many families are in trouble?
- b. A parallel between this text and the issues facing families today.
 - i. The rain – the culture we live in (v. 25a; 2 Tim. 3:1-5).
 - ii. The floods – the crisis we live through (v. 25b; Isa. 43:1).
 - iii. The winds – the change that will come (v. 25; Eccles. 3:1).

III. A home that stands in the storm is anchored in the promises of God (vv. 24-27).

- a. The storm is the ultimate test that every person will face.
- b. Words and religious works are not a substitute for obedience.

Matthew 7:15–20

Read Matthew 7:15–20: Observation

- 1. In 7:15–16, how does Jesus describe false prophets? How will you recognize false prophets?
- 2. In 7:17–20, what principle does Jesus teach about trees and their fruits? What will be the final outcome for bad trees?

Interpretation

- 3. Why is it important for God’s people to guard themselves against false prophets and false teachers? How can members of a local church follow Jesus’ instructions about guarding ourselves? What should we “investigate” or “study” about our leaders, preachers, and teachers?

Application

- 4. How have you inspected the “fruit” of the bible teachers in your life? This week, what will you do to consider the fruit of your bible teachers?

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Matthew 7:21–23

Read Matthew 7:21–23: Observation

5. In 7:21, what will many say to Jesus at the end but still not enter into His kingdom? Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?
6. In 7:22, what kinds of actions and ministry will these rejected persons have taken part in?
7. In 7:23, what will Jesus announce to them? What reason does He give for their rejection?

Interpretation

8. How does this paragraph’s rebuke continue the main idea from the prior paragraph? What common problem shows up in both paragraphs? Does this paragraph magnify the prior paragraph’s problem or minimize it?
9. Because we are saved by God’s grace through faith, how should we understand Jesus’ rebuke here? What kind of “faith” does Jesus reject? What kind of “faith” does He accept? What kind of inspection is needed of our own fruit?
10. How does this paragraph rebuke salvation by works rather than by grace through faith? How does this paragraph rebuke the notion of “faith” as a mere idea? Please compare your thoughts to Eph 2:8–10.

Application

11. What is the nature of your own faith in Christ? Where is your faith most active in your life? Where is faith most missing in your life?
 12. With this text, how might you help a church member struggling with salvation?
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Matthew 7:24–27

Read Matthew 7:24–27: Observation

13. What must someone do to be wise?
14. What must someone do to be unwise?
15. What are the two foundations?

Interpretation

15. How does this paragraph (7:24–27) continue the argument and thoughts of the prior two paragraphs (7:15–20 and 7:21–23)? Does getting saved relate to how we live? Does salvation by grace through faith show up in our deeds? What is the final measuring of our fruit?

Application

16. Please memorize 7:24.
 17. How will you ask God in prayer to increase your desire to heed His word and live out faith in Him?
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