***The Sermon on the Mount***

**The Wise One; Matthew 7:24-25**

I. The Words of Jesus Come Into Our Life

 A. We Hear His Words

 B. We Act on His Words

II. Life Happens and the House of Our Life Gets Rocked

 A. Rains Fall

 B. Floods Come

 C. Winds Blow

III. When Our Life Is Founded on Hearing and Obeying the Teachings of Jesus Christ We Stand Firm even in the Most Difficult Situations

 **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."

**I. Scripture Reading**

* **Read Matthew 7:13-27 (Slides)**
* After this series of rather scary and intimidating statements we come to verse 24
* Verse 24 “Therefore”
* We want to know what to do with this warning
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of this warning
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of ministry and be a false prophet
* We don’t want to fall on the wrong side of faith and love of Christ and be forever lost
* We want to hear Jesus say, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”
* We don’t want to hear Jesus say, “Depart from me.”
* Vrs 24 provides the “therefore” that all true readers of this passage long to hear
* If you are asking the question, what must happen in order to be on the right side of that judgment that is a good sign that we are on the right side of that judgment

**II. Exposition of Matthew 7:24-27 (Title Slide – Slide 1)**

* This passage has been made famous in childhood through the little song that follows this set of verses perfectly
* As such, that song functions as a very good catechism for us
* There are two people in this passage, just as there are two ways in the verses just above this passage
* **Read Matthew 7:13-14 (Slide 2)**
* The last four verses of the Sermon on the Mount also present two different individuals, and like the verses between verse 13 and verse 24 there are many similarities between the two
* In verses 13-14 the two roads are both supposedly headed to life
* Based on the context, both roads have prophets claiming the path that we are on lead to life, both have the religious language, both have religious life
* However, the clear difference between these two paths comes here in this final illustration
* And we want to know, this warning is so scary
* I don’t want to be scary today, I want to be helpful and encouraging
* We all struggle in so many ways in our lives and we all have significant imperfections and sins and fears,
* I really want to be an encouragement to you despite my significant inadequacies as a husband, father, pastor, friend, neighbor
* **Read Matthew 7:23 (Slide 3)**
* Two travelers – one on the narrow way through the narrow gate and one on the broad road through the broad gate
* The narrow gate, narrow way traveler experiences entrance into the kingdom
* The broad way, the broad path traveler is rejected from the kingdom

**III. Two builders: Now Jesus moves from two travelers to two builders**

* **Read Matthew 7:24 (Slide 4)**
* He is completing this section of true and false prophets
* This is an appropriate summary of the difference between true and false prophets
* This is a good summary of those two travelers
* How do I know if I am on the narrow road that leads to life?
* How do I know if I am on the broad road that leads to destruction?
* We hear the words of Jesus and we follow what He says
* It is wise to hear and follow the teachings of Jesus
* Reminds me of the Proverbs and the wisdom literature of the Old Testament
* **Read Proverbs 24:3 (Slide 5)**
* In another Proverb we see similar language about wise individuals
* **Read Proverbs 9:8-9 (Slide 6)**
* Young lady we met while in Colorado when we went horseback riding
* Kim invited her to join us for dinner back at our campsite
* Surprise, she showed up
* Had recently started attending John Piper’s church
* Questions, some had to do with the Bible and some with marriage and relationships and the church
* She humble sat for over an hour as we talked through the truths from God’s word and we sought to encourage her
* I don’t know if she followed the word of the Lord, but her willingness to receive encouragement like that is a great start
* It cannot end at hearing, but it must start there
* Let’s look again at the words of Jesus
* **Read Matthew 7:24 (Slide 7)**
* Both people hear the teachings of Jesus, both of them build their houses
* Imagine the builder of a house consulting an engineer
* They ask the engineer, “What do you think about building here?”
* The master engineer says, “Build there, but not here.”
* The home builder hears the engineer
* The home builder decides to follow the information or to ignore
* We really want to do what we want to do
* **Picture from Nagaland from the Bible College (Slide 8)**
* I went to Austin’s classmates father – a foundation engineer

**IV. Warning from the Master Engineer**

* **Read Matthew 7:25 (Slide 8)**
* Both people hear the teachings of Jesus, both of them build their houses, both of them face trials
* The only difference between the two builders–one actually does what Jesus says
* Notice the intensity of the trials, this is no small trial in mind here
* Rains, floods, winds
* All of these describe the temporary and eternal trials that face everyone in this room
* Trials are coming, difficulties are coming
* This verse is just one more in the coffin of the prosperity gospel
* There is no free ride in this life
* All who claim to follow Christ will face rains, flood and high winds
* There is no card carrying exemptions for believers
* In fact, this verse says that the trials are coming
* How are you going to stand?
* We are going to face a variety of trials
* We are going to face an intensity of trials
* Jesus has advice for the builder BEFORE the trials
* Hear what He has to say and do what He says to do

**V. Conclusion (Header slide – Slide 8)**

* How does this play out in our decisions?
* Making a decision about our family or finances or church
* Hear the Words of Jesus and submit to them