

# **BUILDING THE HOUSE OF ONE'S LIFE**

By Keith Greer

Sermon on the Mount is one of the greatest discourses Christ gave while on earth. From my study, all parts of the life of a Christian are touched upon in this lesson. Jesus, the master teacher, does a superb job of driving home the importance of these thoughts with the story of the two builders and the two houses.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." {Matthew 7:24-27}

Keep this point clear in your minds: the focus in this text is on the two builders and the foundations they chose. One was wise; the other was foolish. What made the difference?

" ... Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them ... " What good would it do any who heard these wonderful lessons, but did not apply them to their own lives?

Many times, following a sermon I've just finished preaching, someone will come up to me and say, "Keith, wonderful lesson, I really needed that you stepped all over my toes this morning!" Honestly, it was not me, but the word of God. Yet, what if this same person goes out the door and makes no changes in what "he needed"? See the point?

God wants us to put His word into action in our lives. Not simply read it, listen to it, understand it and forget about it! What good is truth if it is not applied in one's life?

For example, today, let us say I taught on the need to take opportunity, when it presents itself, to teach the gospel to the lost. Next day your neighbor comes over and asked where you go every Sunday? "Church services to worship the Lord." Then start talking about family, sports or the weather. Remember the sermon? Opportunity just knocked! Did this person apply what he had been taught?

What made the other man "foolish"? " ... everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, ... " He heard the same words as the wise man, but no action was applied. What good did the sermon do this individual?

God's word is clear and plain to tell us how to build a strong spiritual house. Listen to some of His instructions:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all." {Ecclesiastes 12: 13}

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. "{1 Corinthians 16: 13} "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. "{1 Timothy 5:22}

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." {Proverbs 4:23}

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" {Matthew 16:24}

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you." {Proverbs 23:7}

What kind of house are you building dear reader? Guess it depends on what one does with the words of instructions one hears in God's word. \*\*\*