

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Salvation; Gospel / Matthew 7:21–23

Jesus gives the third of three critical life choices that prove which gate/way (Matthew 7:13-14) you have chosen.

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## Pre-sermon Comments

## Sermon Introduction

### Discussion Questions

What stood out to you about the way Pastor Brandon described GBC's Philosophy of Ministry?

How is this different from what you've experienced in other churches?

How does the commitment to evaluating every ministry by the POM help protect the church from mission drift?

Can you think of examples where churches lose focus by adding ministries not centered on the Word?

Why is it significant that GBC emphasizes *exalting God*, *explaining His Word*, and *equipping the saints* as central goals?

How do these three goals work together?

Think about the homes in Cedar Key: some were destroyed, others damaged, and some stood firm. How does this picture relate to the kinds of foundations people build their lives upon?

How might this connect to the end of the Sermon on the Mount (e.g., [Matthew 7:24-27](#))?

## Sermon Text

[Matthew 7:24-29](#) “24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 “And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 “And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 “And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” 28 Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching; 29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”

## Review

[Matthew 5:48](#) “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

### **Matthew 5:6 LSB**

**6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

### **Matthew 7:13-14 LSB**

**13** “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

**14** “For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

# Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 7:15-27](#), Jesus gives us three critical life choices that prove which gate/way ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)) you have chosen.

- **Your Choice Between Two Different Types of Prophets ([Matthew 7:15-20](#)) [Review]**
  - Either Follow The Prophets Yielding Bad Fruit
  - Or Follow The Prophets Yielding Good Fruit
- **Your Choice Between The Two Types of Confession ([Matthew 7:21-23](#)) [Review]**
  - Either Make a False Confession
  - Or Make a Sincere Confession
- **Between Being One of Two Types of Builders ([Matthew 7:24-27](#)) [Today]**
  - Either Be a Wise Builder Who Builds Upon the Rock
  - Or Be a Foolish Builder who Builds upon the Sand

## There are Two Builders

### **Matthew 7:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

### **Matthew 7:26 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> “And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

## Their Similarities

*Both Understood the Need for a Home*

*Both had a Desperate Need for Wisdom*

### **James 3:15–16 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not coming down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

<sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil practice.

### **James 3:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruits, without doubting, without hypocrisy.

*Both Houses Were Identical*

### **1 Corinthians 10:13 LSB**

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

### **James 1:12 LSB**

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

### **James 1:13 LSB**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

### **James 1:14 LSB**

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

### **1 Corinthians 10:13 LSB**

No temptation [or trial] has overtaken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted [or tested] beyond what you are able, but with the temptation [or testing] will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

### *Both Houses Endured the Same Natural Forces*

#### **Matthew 7:25 LSB**

<sup>25</sup> “And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

#### **Matthew 7:27 LSB**

<sup>27</sup> “And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

### *Both Were Willing to Bear the Responsibility of Building a Home*

#### **Psalms 73:1–7 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, My steps had almost slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the boastful, I saw the peace of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat. <sup>5</sup> They are not in trouble *as other* men, And they are not stricken along with *the rest of* mankind. <sup>6</sup> Therefore lofty pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. <sup>7</sup> Their eye bulges from fatness; The delusions of *their* heart overflow.

### *Both of Them Persevered and Finish the Task*

## Discussion Questions

What stood out to you most from Pastor Brandon’s message about the similarities between the wise and foolish builders?

According to the text, what do both builders hear? What separates one as “wise” and the other as “foolish”?

Both builders sought wisdom to build. What are some examples of earthly wisdom versus wisdom from above as seen in [James 3:15–17](#)?

Why is the source of our wisdom so critical when we face trials?

How does understanding the Greek word for “temptation” (trial/testing) help you interpret [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) and [James 1:12–14](#)?

Pastor Brandon said that the same storm hit both houses. Why is it important to realize that trials are common to all people ([1 Cor 10:13](#))?

What are some specific storms in life where you've seen someone's "foundation" exposed?

What does your current "foundation" look like? Are there areas of your life being built on sand rather than the rock?

In what ways are you actively applying Christ's words in your life right now ([Matthew 7:24](#))?

How can we as a group encourage one another to build wisely and endure the trials that will surely come?

## The Builders Utilized Two Different Foundations

### **Matthew 7:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

### **Matthew 7:26 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> "And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

## He Chose an Obviously Inferior Material

### **Matthew 7:25 LSB**

<sup>25</sup> "And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

### **Matthew 7:26 LSB**

<sup>26</sup> "And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

### **Matthew 7:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**Psalms 73:17-19 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> Until I came into the sanctuary of God; *Then* I understood their end. <sup>18</sup> Surely You set them in slippery places; You cause them to fall to destruction. <sup>19</sup> How they become desolate in a moment! They are completely swept away by terrors!

**Are You Living According to God's Wisdom Or Worldly Wisdom?**

**James 1:2-4 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith brings about perseverance. <sup>4</sup> And let perseverance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**James 1:5 LSB**

**5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**James 1:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

**2 Peter 1:3 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

**Am I Correctly Interpreting, Understanding and Applying God's Word?**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> And when I came to you, brothers, I did not come with superiority of word or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the witness of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> and my word and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:6–8 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are being abolished. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages to our glory, <sup>8</sup> which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 LSB**

<sup>9</sup> But just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

**1 Corinthians 2:10–14 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> But to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the *depths* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *depths* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the *depths* graciously given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> of which *depths* we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *depths* with spiritual *words*. <sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the *depths* of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined.

**1 Corinthians 2:15–16 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual examines all things, yet he himself is examined by no one. <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL DIRECT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.



## Am I Living in Obedience to Christ and His Word?

### **John 14:15 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

### **John 15:10 LSB**

<sup>10</sup> “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

### **1 John 2:3–6 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup> The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: <sup>6</sup> the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

### **Philippians 4:8 LSB**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things.

## Conclusion:

### **Matthew 7:28–29 LSB**

<sup>28</sup> Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching; <sup>29</sup> for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

## Discussion Questions

What does Jesus mean by “hearing these words of Mine and doing them”? Why is obedience emphasized?

In what way is Jesus's metaphor of the "rock" meant to convey the immovability and sufficiency of His Word?

Pastor Brandon referenced [Psalm 73](#). How does Asaph's experience relate to the seeming prosperity of the foolish builder and the ultimate result of his foundation?

How does the example of the Saint Francis Dam failure help illustrate the spiritual danger of building on inferior materials?

Why is it significant that the storm came to both houses—one built on the rock and the other on sand?

Pastor Brandon asked: "Are you living according to God's wisdom or worldly wisdom?" How would you evaluate your life in light of that question?

Pastor Brandon brought up biblical counseling vs. secular psychology. What role does Scripture play in how you deal with personal struggles and trials?

How can you grow in correctly interpreting, understanding, and applying God's Word—so that you're not merely a hearer, but a doer?

Consider [James 1:5](#). When was a time that you asked God for wisdom during a trial? How did He answer that prayer?

What spiritual disciplines or habits help you dig deeply into the "bedrock" of Scripture?

## The Gospel

### **God**

#### **Created and owns everything**

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

## **Is Perfectly Holy**

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

## **Requires perfect obedience to His Law**

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

## **Man**

### **Has broken God's law**

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

### **Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin**

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

### **Cannot save himself by his good works**

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

## **Christ**

### **Came to earth both as God and sinless man**

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

### **Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty**

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **Rose from the grave and is alive today**

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

### **Sinners**

#### **Must repent of all that dishonors God**

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

#### **Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior**

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

#### **Will you repent and believe in Christ?**

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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## Additional Quotes

It is trial that proves one thing weak and another strong. A house built on the sand is in fair weather just as good as if builded on a rock. A cobweb is as good as the mightiest cable when there is no strain upon it. ~ **Henry Ward Beecher (Congregational Clergyman)**

We have left the miry clay for the solid rock. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The world's golden sands are quicksands ~ **Thomas Watson**

May your character not be a writing upon the sand, but an inscription upon the rock! ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Thus hearing and heeding Jesus' words is **wise**; one who does not is **foolish**. Only two courses of action are possible—two kinds of roads and gates ([Matt. 7:13–14](#)), two kinds of trees and fruit (vv. 15–20), two kinds of foundations and builders (vv. 24–27). ~ **Louis A. Barbieri Jr.**

Those of the same profession and denomination among men, may yet be of characters vastly different in the sight of God. Sincere Christians are the *wise* virgins, and hypocrites the *foolish ones*, as in another parable they are represented by wise and foolish builders. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

Each house looks secure in good weather. But Palestine is known for torrential rains that can turn dry wadis into raging torrents. Only storms reveal the quality of the work of the two builders. ~ **D. A. Carson**

First of all, both builders have heard the gospel. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

It is worthy of note that there are only two kinds of builders, not three, four, or five; and that these two form a striking contrast. The Lord is constantly dividing men into two classes. ~ **William Hendriksen; Simon J. Kistemaker**