

THE TWO BUILDERS

At the end of the Sermon on Mount, Jesus made an appeal to the listeners to choose the grace way of salvation in Jesus Christ – “**Not everyone** who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; **but he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven.” (Matt.7:21)

The final section of the Sermon on Mount closes with four metaphors that we will study in our special.

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| • Two Gates | Wide vs. Narrow | (Matt.7:13-14) |
| • Two Trees | Bad and Good | (Matt.7:15-20) |
| • Two Followers | False and True | (Matt.7:21-23) |
| • Two Builders | Foolish and Wise | (Matt.7:24-27) |

Jesus encouraged the listeners to choose the narrow gate, the good tree, to be the true follower, and to be the wise builder.

Today’s lesson will study five aspects of the final metaphor of the “Two Builders.”

1. In the metaphor of the two builders, Jesus appealed to positive volition (PV) at God consciousness and warned against negative volition (NV) towards gospel hearing of the plan of grace salvation.

Wise man - “Therefore everyone who **hears** (akouo / p.a.ind) these words of Mine, and **acts** (poieo / p.a.ind) **upon them**, may be compared (homoioo / f.p.ind) to **a wise man** (phronimos aner), who built (oikodemeo / a.a.ind) **his house upon the rock** (ten petra).” (Matt.7:24)

Foolish man – “And everyone who **hears** (akouo / p.a.ptc) these words of Mine, and **does NOT act** (me poieo / p.a.ptc) upon them, will be like (homoioo / f.p.ind) **a foolish man** (moros aner), who built his house upon the sand (ten ammos).” (Matt.7:26)

The wise man (phronimos aner) is a person with practical wisdom. **Positive volition** expressed by a desire to understand, believe, and apply the truth of the word of God to everyday life no matter what the circumstances, people, or problems.

The foolish man (moros aner) is a person with practical foolishness. **Negative volition** expressed by an unwillingness to understand, believe, and apply the truth of the word of God.

The different volitional responses resulted in different dispositions of character towards the truth of the word of God.

- **NV** resulted in rejection of the gospel of grace salvation resulting in a **foolish man**.
- **PV** resulted in acceptance of the gospel of grace salvation resulting in a **wise man**.

2. The metaphor of the two builders characterizes two different types of listeners to the truth of the word of God.

It is very similar to the Parable of the Sower (Matt.13:10-16). In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus mentioned four different types of listeners. Yet they fall into the categories of the wise and the foolish.

The **foolish** were the roadside, rocky, and thorny listeners. The **wise** was the good listener.

Jesus illustrated three foolish listeners to emphasize NV and the things that distracted listeners from the truth of the word of God.

- Roadside (Matt.13:19)
- Rocky (Matt.13:20-21)
- Thorny (Matt.13:22)

Then Jesus illustrated one wise listener to emphasize PV hearing and believing and acting upon the truth of the word of God.

- Good (Matt.13:23)

3. Like the Parable of the Sower, adversity will come in association with hearing and understanding to challenge the believing and acting upon the truth of the word of God.

Wise man – “And **the rain** descended (katabaino / a.a.ind) and **the floods** came (erchomai / a.m.ind), and the **winds blew** (pneo / a.a.ind), and the **burst against** (prospipto / a.a.ind) the house; and yet it did not fall (ouk pipto / a.a.ind), for (gar of explanation) it had been founded (themelioo / plupf.p.ind) upon the rock.” (Matt.7:25)

Foolish man – “And the **rain** descended, and the **floods** came, and the **winds** blew, and **burst against** that house; and it fell, and great was (eimi / impf.a.ind) the fall.”

“And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed.’” (Luke 2:34; **1Pet.2:7-8**)

4. The two builders had different experiences with the adversity based on PV or NV towards hearing and acting upon the truth of the word of God.

Foolish man – “And it fell, and great was its fall.” (Matt.7:27b)

Wise man – “And yet it did not fall, for it has been founded upon the rock.” (Matt.7:25b)

“According to the grace which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a **foundation** (themelios), and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor.3:10-11; Rom.15:20)

“Nevertheless, **the firm foundation of God** stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.’” (2 Tim.2:19)

Good ground – “And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who **hears** the word and **understands** it; who indeed **bears fruit**, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some fifty.” (Matt.13:23)

5. The wise builder built his house upon the ROCK of grace salvation of Jesus Christ (Matt.7:24-25; 1 Cor.10:4-5) [Rock in the wilderness]; Rom.9:33).

“And I say to you that you are Peter, **and upon this rock** I will build My church: and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.” (Matt.16:18)

This rock - “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” (Matt.16:16-17)