

# The True Foundation

## I. The Scripture: The Wise and Foolish Builders

*21".Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' 24"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." 28When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."*

**Matthew 7:21-29**

## II. Looking at the Scripture

This ending to the Sermon on the Mount is a challenge to live out the message of this great exhortation. The words are simple, the message is dear, the truth about life is found in these powerful words.

### 1. But Lord, Lord - Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus mentioned someone who cried, "Lord, Lord," but who lacked commitment to Him.

What point is Jesus making in this passage?

Why does Jesus place so much importance on obedience? What does it mean "to do the will of my Father" (v. 21)?

Why do you think Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with an emphasis on hearing and doing?

How does James 1:22 reinforce these words of Jesus?

## **2. Actions Speak Louder than Words - Matthew 7:24-29**

How would you summarize the parable of the two houses?

Jesus compared wisdom and foolishness and so did many of the Old Testament writers. What other characteristics of wisdom and foolishness are found in Proverbs 12:15-20?

Wisdom

Foolishness

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How does Matthew 7:24-29 provide a fitting conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount?

### III. The Scripture and You

#### 1. Make Christ the Lord of Your Life

Jesus states that many call Him Lord but neglect to make Him Lord. When it comes to calling Jesus Lord of your life, what are you usually really saying?

- a. "My Lord and My God"
- b. "My Rescuer in a time of trouble"
- c. "My Good Buddy"
- d. "The same thing everybody else is saying"
- e. "My parent's Lord"
- f. "The Cop in the sky"
- g. "A Supreme Being"
- h. "The Great Kill-joy"
- i. " \_\_\_\_\_ "

The word "Lord" means "master." Jesus wants to be the master of our lives. In what ways have you given Him control of your life?

In what areas of your life do you still need to allow Him lordship?

## 2. Prepare for the Storms of Life

We need to get this straight: Rain, wind and storms come to everyone's lives.

Christians are not exempt from pains and trouble. The question is, "How will you handle the pressures that come your way?"

What happens to you when the pressures of life come? To examine this question better, first think about what has caused worry, trouble or strain in your life.

Circle five of the things on the following list that you see as pressure in your life.

Death of someone close to you

Job

Money

Teachers

Responsibilities

Nuclear War

Family

Grades

Injury

Future

Lack of Dates

Dating

Holiday Season

Debts

College Applications

Moving

Friends

Drugs/or Alcohol

School Tasks

Illness

Other:

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Where do you turn and what do you do when the storm hits?

Where:

What:

Remember this thought: *Pressure reveals the person.*

How much do you let the Lord be the foundation in your life during the storm?

Circle the most appropriate answer on the following continuum and then give the reason for your answer in the space provided.

Always

Most Often

Sometimes

Seldom

Never

### **3. Let Christ Have Authority in Your Life**

*"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, had not as their teachers of the law."*

**Matthew 7:28, 29**

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The people were amazed that Jesus taught with such authority. How do you react to the authority of Jesus in your life? (Circle the phrase that best describes you.)

1. I, too, am amazed.
2. He's the boss.
3. I think He has to compete with me.
4. My submission to His rule comes and goes.
5. To be honest, He loses out to my will.
6. He seems to play second string on my team.

Dr. James Dobson tells a great story about a little obnoxious boy who was very disobedient

Robert arrived in the dental office, prepared for battle. "Get in the chair, young man," said the doctor. "No chance!" replied the boy.

"Son, I told you to climb onto the chair, and that's what I intend for you to do," said the dentist. Robert stared at his opponent for a moment and then replied, "If you make me get in that chair, I will take off all my clothes." The dentist calmly said, "Son, take 'em off."

The boy forthwith removed his shirt, undershirt, shoes and socks, and then looked up in defiance. "All right son," said the dentist. "Now get in the chair."

"You didn't hear me," sputtered Robert. "I said if you make me get on that chair, I will take off all my clothes." "Son, take 'em off," replied the man.

Robert proceeded to remove his pants and shorts, finally standing totally naked before the dentist and his assistant. "Now son, get in the chair," said the doctor.

Robert did as he was told, and sat cooperatively through the entire procedure. When the cavities were drilled and filled, he was instructed to step down from the chair.

"Give me my clothes now," said the boy.

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"I'm sorry," replied the dentist. "Tell your mother that we're going to keep your clothes tonight. She can pick them up tomorrow."

Can you comprehend the shock Robert's mother received when the door to the waiting room opened, and there stood her pink son, as naked as the day he was born? The room was filled with patients, but Robert and his mom walked past them and into the hall. They went down a public elevator and into the parking lot, ignoring the snickers of onlookers. The next day, Robert's mother returned to retrieve his clothes, and asked to have a word with the dentist. However, she did not come to protest. These were her sentiments: "You don't know how much I appreciate what happened here yesterday. You see, Robert has been blackmailing me about his clothes for years. If I don't immediately buy him what he wants, he threatens to take off all his clothes. You are the first person who has called his bluff, doctor, and the impact on Robert has been incredible."<sup>1</sup>

The dentist called the boy's bluff and the result was interesting, to say the least. What would happen if Jesus called your bluff if you were calling out "Lord, Lord"? (Circle the most appropriate answer.)

I'd be caught living a lie	It depends on the time and the place	It would really scare me
He'd see me giving it my best	I'd be happy to receive His insight	Other:

Complete this sentence:

The way for me to not only say "Lord, Lord," but to also do His will is . . .

<sup>1</sup>. Dr. James Dobson, *Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives* (Waco: Word Books, 1980), pp. 58-60.