

Session 6 - What Kind of Foundation Is Your Life Built On?

Matthew 7:13–27

Understanding Jesus' final warning in the Sermon on the Mount and why the life we build must rest on a strong foundation.



The Sermon Reaches Its Conclusion

Jesus now brings the Sermon on the Mount to its final challenge. After teaching about:

- the character of the Kingdom
- the transformation of the heart
- trust in the Father
- relationships shaped by grace

Jesus now asks a decisive question:

What will we do with what we have heard?

The sermon ends not with new teaching, but with a call to choose a path.



Two Paths

13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus describes two different ways people can live.

- The **wide gate and broad road** that many people follow.
- The **narrow gate and difficult road** that leads to life.

The broad road is easy because it requires little change. The narrow path requires a different way of living — one shaped by the values Jesus has just taught.

The point is not that God desires few people to be saved.

The point is that true discipleship requires intentional commitment.



False Teachers and the Test of Fruit

15 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.”

Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus then warns about false prophets.

Not everyone who claims to speak for God truly represents Him.

Jesus gives a simple test:

Look at the fruit.

A healthy tree produces good fruit.
A diseased tree produces bad fruit.

The character and actions of a person eventually reveal the true condition of the heart.

Disciples must learn to recognize truth not just by words, but by **the fruit a life produces.**



Two Kinds of Disciples

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”

Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus now gives one of the most sobering warnings in the sermon.

- Not everyone who calls Him “Lord” truly belongs to Him.
- Some people perform impressive religious actions — prophecy, miracles, ministry — yet still live outside the will of God.

Jesus teaches that genuine discipleship is not about appearances or spiritual activity.

It is about a life that actually follows the will of the Father.



Hearing vs. Doing

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.”

Matthew 7:24

At this point Jesus introduces His final illustration.

- Two people hear the same teaching.
- Both listen to the words of Jesus.

But their responses are different.

- One person **puts the teaching into practice.**
- The other person **hears but does nothing.**

The difference between them becomes visible over time.



The Wise Builder

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

Jesus compares the obedient listener to a wise builder.

- This person builds their house on **solid rock**.
- Storms come — rain, floods, wind — but the house stands firm.

The storms represent the challenges and pressures of life.

A life built on the teaching of Jesus is not immune to storms, but it **has a foundation strong enough to endure them.**

The cornerstone of that foundation is where Jesus started this sermon:

Humility, repentance, and dependence on God.



The Foolish Builder

27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Matthew 7:26-27

The second builder hears the same teaching but ignores it.

- Instead of building on rock, this person builds on **sand**.
- When storms arrive, the house collapses.

The difference between the two houses is not visible at first.

But the foundation determines whether a life stands or falls when pressure comes.



The Real Issue

The difference between the two builders is not knowledge.

Both heard the teaching of Jesus.

The difference is submission.

One life is shaped by what Jesus taught.
The other treats His teaching as optional.

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by reminding His listeners that truth is not meant only to be admired.

It is meant to be lived.



The Reaction of the Crowd

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

Matthew 7:28-29

Matthew concludes by telling us that the crowd was amazed at Jesus' teaching.

- Unlike the teachers of the law, Jesus spoke **with authority**.
- His words carried the weight of truth because He spoke not only about God's Kingdom — He spoke **as the King of that Kingdom**.

The sermon ends with a question that still echoes today:

Will we build our lives on what Jesus has said?



Key Insight

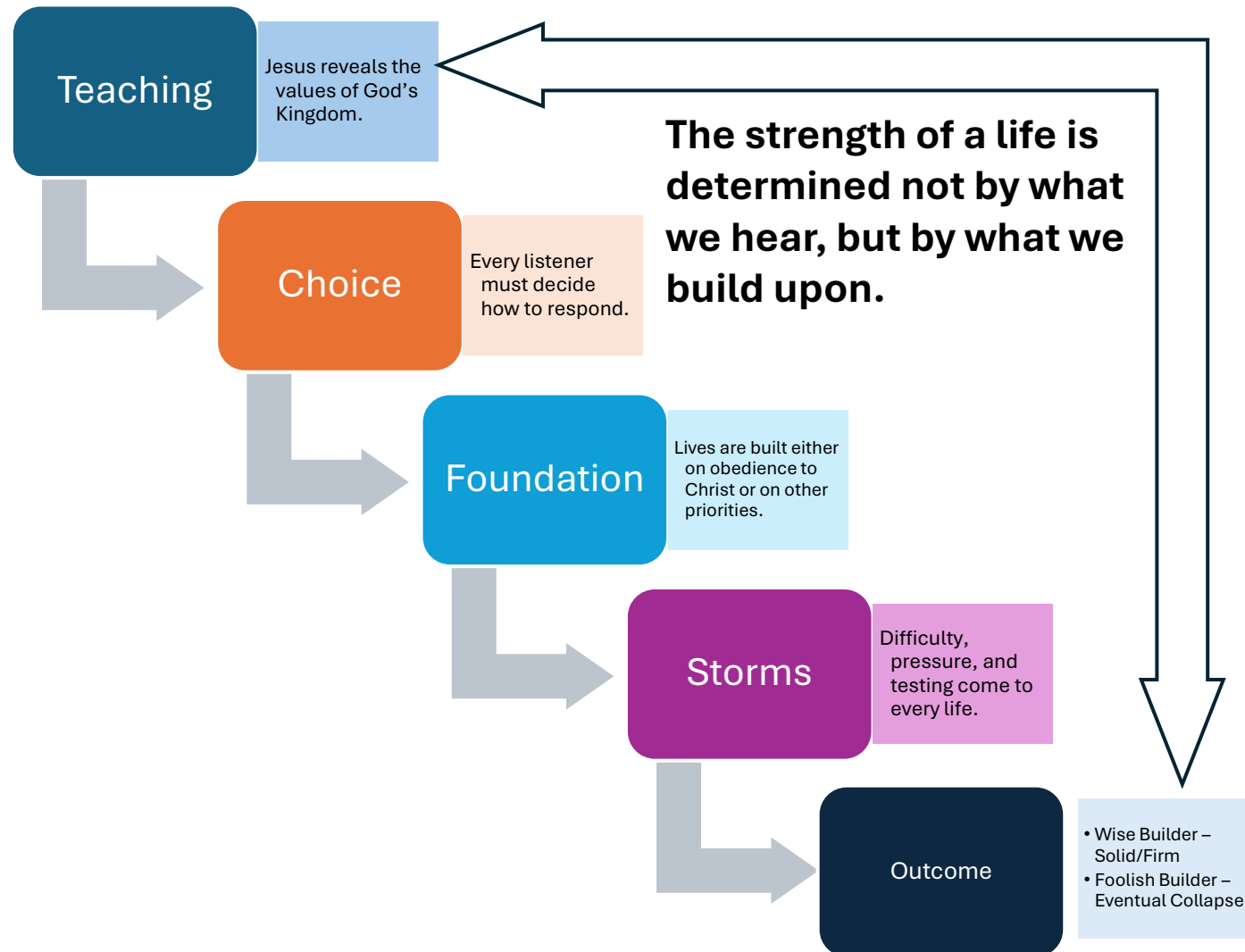
The Sermon on the Mount is not simply a collection of moral teachings.

It is an invitation to build an entirely different kind of life.

- A life shaped by:
 - humility
 - mercy
 - trust in the Father
 - love for others
 - obedience to the words of Christ.



Teaching → Choice → Foundation → Outcome



A Question for the Heart

If someone looked at the direction of your life today, what foundation would they see?

Is your life being shaped by the teaching of Jesus, or by the values of the surrounding culture?



Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus describes two different paths in life?
2. What does it mean to recognize a teacher by their fruit?
3. Why is hearing the words of Jesus not enough by itself?
4. What does it look like to actively build a life on the teaching of Christ?



Final Takeaway

Every life is being built on something.

- Some foundations look strong for a time but cannot withstand the storms of life.
- Jesus teaches that the only secure foundation is a life shaped by **listening to His words and putting them into practice.**

The question that ends the Sermon on the Mount is simple but profound:

What kind of foundation is your life built on?

