

## THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

Reference: **Matthew 7:24-29**

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This parable describes two men who built houses for themselves. Each man's house represented his \_\_\_\_\_, meaning his entire \_\_\_\_\_ on this earth.

The difference between them was the different foundations those men used. The wise man built his house on a rock foundation and the foolish man built his house on the sand.

The Greek word translated as rock as in the rock foundation, is the word \_\_\_\_\_. That word doesn't mean a stone or even a larger boulder. It meant a large expanse of \_\_\_\_\_.

The sand as in the sand foundation is in contrast to the rock. Sand is loose, movable, shifting and extremely \_\_\_\_\_.

Some people interpret this parable to teach that this rock foundation represents God or His Son, Jesus. Its true God is referred to in Scripture as a figurative rock.

Reference: **Psalm 18:2; 62:1** and **2** (see screen)

God's Son, Jesus is also called a figurative rock or stone.

Reference: **I Corinthians 3:11; Acts 4:11** (see screen)

So both God and Jesus are described as figurative rocks and that's the reason some commentators teach the rock this wise man built his house on represents Jesus. In a limited sense that is true, but there is more to this figurative rock than that.

**verses twenty-four** (see screen)

The **rock foundation** in this parable represents someone that \_\_\_\_\_ what Scripture has said and then \_\_\_\_\_ what Scripture has instructed him to do i.e. in one word, that's called \_\_\_\_\_.

**verse twenty-six** (see screen)

The **sand foundation** in this parable represents someone that \_\_\_\_\_ what Scripture has said and then \_\_\_\_\_ what Scripture has instructed him to do i.e. in one word, that's called \_\_\_\_\_.

**Definition:** Obedience is defined as doing \_\_\_\_\_ we are told to do, doing it \_\_\_\_\_ we are told to do it, doing it the \_\_\_\_\_ it should be done and doing it with the right heart \_\_\_\_\_.

**James** also described someone that hears and then doesn't do.

Reference: **James 1:22-24** (see screen)

James describes Scripture as a mirror that reveals the mess we're sometimes in. If we completely ignore what we have seen in the biblical mirror then two things are true about us:

- We are \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ per **James 1:22**.
- We are \_\_\_\_\_ per the parable of the wise and the foolish builders **Matthew 7: 26-27**.

One example of hearing and then doing:

If we are offended we have two biblical options:

Option One - we can let love \_\_\_\_\_ that offense per **I Peter 4:8**, meaning we forgive that offense.

There are two basic classifications of forgiveness we can extend toward someone:

- **Positional forgiveness** transpires between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We tell God we have chosen to forgive the offender so resentment and bitterness doesn't build up inside us.
- **Transactional forgiveness** transpires between \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ after the offender asks to be forgiven.

Option Two - we can \_\_\_\_\_ the offender in love per **Matthew 18:15**, hoping that he or she will admit to wrongdoing and desire to be forgiven.

Reference: **Ephesians 4:32** (see screen)

Important: Christians are to be the \_\_\_\_\_ **forgiving** because we have been the \_\_\_\_\_ **forgiven!**

Notice the end-result of each man's building. Both men faced serious storms.

The wise builder's house survived the storm.

**verse twenty-five** (see screen)

The foolish man's house didn't survive the storm

**verse twenty-seven** (see screen)