

FOLLOW THE BEST PLANS

Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction: In constructing buildings there are always blueprints. Plans by which the builder of the building follows. There in the plans are exact details for every needed area that will make the building safe, secure, comfortable and useable. Primary and most basic in building any building is the foundation. The deeper and stronger the foundation, the stronger and safer the building will be. Jesus said that life is like a building. The stronger the foundation, the better that life will be. Life is a "living" building in a way. A life built upon God's standards will endure.

I. A WISE BUILDER FOLLOWS THE PLANS EXACTLY

1. Starting to build a "house."
 - Once born, every person begins to build a "living house," a life.
 - Jesus has given plans for people to build their lives by.;
 - The plans Jesus gives are revealed in His teachings, His Words. Thus a person's life and destiny depends upon how he/she responds (follows the plans) to Jesus' Words.
 - Every person is either following Jesus' plans or he/she is not, but all of us are building a life.
 - Every one who has access to the teachings of Jesus can build a very stable life.
2. Building upon a solid foundation - a "rock."
 - Jesus is that "rock" the foundation upon which one's life must be built if it is to endure.
 - Jesus is not just any rock, but He is the Living Stone.
 - We thirst after His Words.
 - We grow through His Words.
 - We learn through His Words.
 - Lives and destinies are determined by what one does with the plans of Jesus.
 - Building upon a rock is harder and takes longer.
 - Building upon a rock is wise, prudent and sensible.
3. Storms of life will come.
 - Everybody will have difficulties or "storms" in his/her life. Nobody will escape them.
 - There will be all kinds of storms:
 - Sickness, sorrow, stress, neglect, loneliness, sin, temptations, suffering,
 - Disappointments, disease, emotions, tension, poverty, failures, pain, death,
 - Rejections, accidents, handicaps, complaints, loss, mistreatment, pressures,
 - Misunderstandings, doubts, gossip, hospitalization, abuse, and so on.
4. A wise builder's life will endure and last through the storms of life.
 - The difference between lasting and destruction is the foundation. The Foundation alone determines the wisdom of the builder.

- Building upon Christ, the solid Rock will never fail because:
 - God accepts that person in Christ, God promises to provide the necessities of life,
 - God promises to work out all things together for good to those who build upon His Rock.
 - God blesses those who hear and obey Christ's Word.
 - Christ promises joy to those who hear and obey His Word.
 - God promises to deliver the wise builder into His heavenly Kingdom.

II. THE FOOLISH BUILDER HAS THE PLANS BUT DOESN'T FOLLOW THEM

1. Every living person is building a "house," a life. Note the difference:
 - The foolish builder HAS the plans of Jesus.
 - He/she knows he/she is building a life but chooses NOT to build according to Jesus' plans and that is extremely dangerous.
 - There is no middle ground, if a person is alive, then that person is building a life. Once one hears the plans of Jesus, that person has a choice: to build his/her life according to Jesus' plans or to continue on building by his/her own plans.
 - Some hear Jesus' plans over and over but never decide to follow Jesus' plans.
2. The foolish builder builds upon "sand."
 - This is the depth of foolishness. Sand is everything and anything EXCEPT the plans of Jesus. Sand is the world, flesh, fame, dreams, selfishness, etc.
 - Any life built upon "sand" will collapse when the storms of life come, and they will come.
 - What a privilege to have knowledge of Jesus' plans for a life.
 - What an abuse to know but never use the plans of Jesus for one's life.
3. Great will be the destruction of that "building," life.
 - Storms will come, sooner or later.
 - The foundation of one's life will make all the difference whether that person (life) stands or falls.
 - A solid foundation is most needed when storms come.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus has given us this parable to tell us that not only is He the Way, the Truth and the Life, but that He is the ONLY foundation that will endure all the Satan and the World will send.
2. So many start out with Christ as their foundation, but they later begin to add trash, weakness, and non fitting things and sooner or later, everything they have added that was not in Jesus' plans will be destroyed, if not by life's storms, certainly when they stand before God in judgment.
3. Perhaps you have not accepted Jesus' plans for you life and have been living, building, just existing. Know that Jesus can give your life that solid foundation that you need.