

# James I Foundations (Matthew 7.24-27)

## SERMON OUTLINE

### Intro

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  - Wisdom (24-25)
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***Main Idea- The difference in wisdom and foolishness is not hearing the Word. It is obeying it.***

### Understanding the Sermon on the Mount

- Matthew 4.23-5.1
- The two audiences- disciples and the crowd.
  - What does it mean to follow Jesus? To pursue, to go after, to obey
- Preaching the Kingdom
  - Defining life in God's Kingdom

### Wisdom (v.24-25)

- The exclusive claim of the words of Jesus
- An analogy vs an allegory
  - Listening and doing=wisdom
  - Building on the right foundation=wisdom

### Foolishness (v.26-27)

- Both situations start the same- with the word of Jesus
- Both the wise person and the fool face storms

### Implications and Practices

- ***The difference in wisdom and foolishness is not hearing the Word. It is obeying it.***
- *If the Sermon on the Mount is meant to define like in God's Kingdom, the book of James is going to be the specific instructions we live by.*
- *You cannot be a follower of Jesus without obeying Jesus*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus highlights the difference between the wise and foolish person. While they both hear what Jesus has to say, the wise obey his teachings.
  - a. How are you experiencing the truth of this parable right now?
  - b. What teachings of Jesus have grounded you in this season, enabling you to weather the storms that you are facing right now?
  - c. Where have you failed or struggled to obey Jesus' teachings and how are your current storms bringing these to light?
  - d. Which of Jesus' teachings that you have neglected is the Lord currently drawing your attention to most?
  
2. While we often wish that godly wisdom would keep us from trials, instead what we find is that it enables us to endure them.
  - a. How has God taught you this from watching other's lives? Who can you think of has been the best example of this principle and what have you learned from them?
  - b. Looking back on your life, how do you see Jesus using past lessons that you have learned to help you stand firm in the midst of the storms you are currently facing?
  
3. Another thing that this passage highlights is the difference between hearing and obeying. Hearing can lead to knowledge, but wisdom requires obedience. In other words, there is a difference between knowing what we should do (knowledge) and actually doing it (wisdom).
  - a. What is the danger of either one of these without the other?
  - b. What are some ways that we try to substitute knowledge for wisdom? How are we tempted to settle for biblical knowledge without practicing biblical wisdom?
  - c. On the flip side, how can we miss the importance of knowledge by trying to focus only on what we need to do?
  
4. With all this emphasis on obedience, we might be tempted to fall into unhealthy patterns of either apathy (because we can't make ourselves obey all the time) or moralism (we are determined to try to be perfect on our own).
  - a. How do we avoid these traps?
  - b. What does it practically look like to pursue obedience through faith by the power of the Spirit, as opposed to by our own will power in the power of our flesh?