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Sermon Notes

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Built Wisely Is Built to Last: Jesus Prepares us For Judgment Day Matthew 7:24-29

I. Foundations & Building Techniques

- A. Foundations in the Back Bay of Boston
- B. Building techniques in Japan: preparing for earthquakes
- C. Central issue: will your life bear eternal fruit, or will it all be a waste?

II. Context: “Therefore...”

A. Immediate: 7:21-23

- 1. “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord...’”

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

- 2. Key problem with those people is disobedience

B. Chapter 7: Preparation for Judgment Day

- C. Whole Sermon on the Mount: Heart Righteousness which produces lasting fruit

III. Wise and Foolish Builders

A. Similarities Between the Two Builders

- 1. Both hear the words of Jesus
 - a. a serious warning to his hearers...
 - b. my words should change the way you live!
- 2. Both build a house
 - a. tremendous energy expended every day
 - b. life projects... career, family, possessions, work done

3. Both experience the same testing of that house
 - a. the test is vigorous... extreme

Illus. Earthquake in Kobe

- b. testing in this life?? Not so much

B. Differences Between the Two Builders

1. One is wise, the other foolish
 - a. heart righteousness the core issue of Sermon on the Mount
 - b. “Make a tree good, and its fruit will be good; make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.”
 - c. conversion produces wisdom... the wise man listens to Christ’s words to obey them

Matthew 11:19 “Wisdom is proved right by her actions.”

- d. being a spiritual beggar is the first step of wisdom

2. One hears and obeys; one hears and disobeys

- a. obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ the surest test of salvation

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 15:10 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

John 15:14 “You are my friends if you do what I command.”

1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

- b. what do you do with the word you’ve heard?

- i) begin by trembling... God is speaking to you!!

Isaiah 66:2 “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at my word.”

ii) hear to obey... think how to change your life because of it

iii) REMEMBER WHAT YOU HEARD!!!

James 1:22-25 “Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”

3. One house survives the test; the other house is destroyed by the test
 - a. the wise man’s house is still left standing after the flood has subsided
 - b. the foolish man’s house is totally destroyed... not one part remains
 - c. the final words of Jesus: a great crash!!!
4. Key difference: one is built on the rock, the other built on sand
 - a. the wise man’s house stood firm, because it had its foundation on something that didn’t move... a solid rock
 - b. the foolish man’s house was destroyed because of the erosion of the foundation

Illus. Erosion in California... houses cast down a cliff

C. Interpreting the Parable

1. Wise man and foolish man are both hearers of Jesus’ words
2. Wise man begins with broken heart over sin... finds in Jesus Christ one with total authority
3. Bases his entire life on Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 3:11 “No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

4. Obeys Christ’s words down to the detail

- a. searches the Beatitudes to see what kind of man he should be
- b. hungers after the Law of God to make him genuinely righteous
 - i) negatively... he sees anger, lust, oath-breaking, unfaithfulness in marriage, spitefulness to his enemies in his own heart and he grieves over it
 - ii) positively, he yearns to do good works which only the Father can see
- c. thus, he begins to build his life... day after day, he builds in how he expends his energy
- d. His prayer is “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Then he goes out and serves hard every day to advance the Kingdom of God
- e. Storing up treasure in heaven is the same as building a house on the solid rock
- f. The foundation is Christ, but His commands are also the building technique as well
- g. the wise man is building a heavenly house... one that will last through Judgment Day
- h. ultimately, he is living for that eternal heavenly city, and he works every day with that in mind

Hebrews 11:10 “He was looking forward to a city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

- 5. But the foolish man builds independently & pridefully
 - a. he makes his own blueprints
 - b. he chooses his own foundation
 - c. he selects all his own building materials
 - d. he puts every board in place himself; he pounds in every nail himself
 - e. he is a career-oriented man who lives for this world
 - f. she is a career-oriented woman who lives for this world
 - g. the foolish builder chooses a sandy foundation... anything other than the sovereign Lord Jesus Christ
- 6. The rain, the wind, the rising streams... the end of the world and Judgment Day

a. real issue is the eternal test... Judgment Day

Hebrews 12:26-27 “But now he has promised, ‘Once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens.’ The words ‘Once more’ indicate the removal of what can be shaken, that is, created things, so that what cannot be shaken may remain.”

b. on that day, everything will be shaken... anything not eternal will be destroyed

2 Peter 3:10-13 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

c. only the Kingdom of God will last... everything you do to advance the Kingdom will stand up to the final test

7. See the amazing grace of God!! For God has given us a way to build for eternity!

a. all human life is brief

b. most of us waste so much time

c. people who lived a century ago are mostly forgotten, their lives wasted if not lived for God

d. all that energy, put toward Christ’s kingdom will be stored up for eternity

8. Central lesson is the powerful authority of Jesus Christ

IV. The Authority of the Lord

vs. 7:28-29 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as their teachers of the law.”

Note: These two verses may seem superfluous, but they are not... the Holy Spirit means to focus our attention on the Teacher

A. Crowd's reaction

1. Utter amazement... they had never heard anyone speak that way before
2. Jesus just appeared out of nowhere, began do astonishing miracles, and sat down to teach them in a way completely without precedent
3. "Who is this man from Galilee? Where did He get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?"

B. Jesus' authority

1. Different from the teachers of the law: independent authority

Illus.: Difference between speaking to a temp worker and the owner of the store

a. confident assertions:

- ◆ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for there is the kingdom of heaven!
- ◆ Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven!
- ◆ Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven
- ◆ Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well!

b. independent authority, direct commands

- ◆ Over forty separate commands in the Sermon on the Mount
- ◆ *You have heard that it was said... but I say to you*
- ◆ *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect*

2. Breathtaking in its self-reference

- a. 5:11-12 "persecuted because of me" ... reward the same as the prophets!!
- b. 5:13-14 "you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world"... you, my disciples are this!!
- c. 5:17 "I have come..." clear reference to the Incarnation; Jesus willfully chose to enter this world, and He did it for a reason

John 18:37 “You are right in saying that I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”

- d. 5:17 “I came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets”... AMAZING!! Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament... Moses wrote about Jesus, the prophets wrote about Jesus

Romans 10:4 “Christ is the end of the law, so that there might be righteousness for all who believe.”

- e. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord...” People calling Jesus Lord
 f. 7:22 “Many will say to me on that day...” Claiming to be the Judge of the World
 g. 7:24 “Everyone who hears these words of mine...” Eternal destiny based on what you did with the words of this humble carpenter from Galilee

C. Central issue: Not the teaching alone, but the teacher himself

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Not: “I teach the truth” but “I AM the truth!!”

V. Application

- 1) Choose Christ as the foundation of your life
- 2) Build wisely, as a spiritual beggar
 - ◆ Understands need... doesn't try to build alone
 - ◆ Moment-by-moment dependence upon Christ
 - ◆ Eternal view... everything that can be sensed is temporary and will be destroyed
- 3) Test yourselves:
 - ◆ 20th message on the Sermon on the Mount... began on January 31st... over 5 months ago
 - ◆ Have you put into practice anything you learned from these sermons?
 - ◆ Are you a spiritual beggar now, or are you still saying that you're “basically a good person?”
 - ◆ In what way did hearing about salt & light change your life?

- ◆ When you heard Christ expound the Law in Chapter 5, did it strengthen your conviction that you are a sinner saved by grace? In the last 5 months, has your right hand caused you to sin? If so, did you obey Christ & cut it out of your life?
 - ◆ Are you more likely to turn the other cheek now, or do you still feel that viper inside you
 - ◆ On June 20th, I gave you a very specific application on “Ask, seek & knock...” Did you do it?
- 1) Read through 2 Peter 1:5-7, Galatians 5:22-23 with your spouse, parent, Christian friend... someone spiritually mature & who knows you well
 - 2) Ask the person; “Which of these character traits do you think I could most benefit from growing in?” Listen humbly & write it down.
 - 3) Ask the person, “Which of these character traits would YOU most like to grow in? I will pray for you daily for one year in that area.”
 - 4) Pray daily for one year for each of these two character traits... one for yourself, one for the other person

Keep on asking, and it will be given to you

Keep on seeking and you will find

Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you

5. Mark the date, write down your commitment, then agree to meet together one year from now and check the progress... see if God has been faithful!

DID YOU DO IT???