

Parables and Stories

Building Upon the Rock

Matthew 7:24-29

1. What is the point that Jesus is making?
2. What is primarily being referred to by “these words” in verse 24?
3. Is there a secondary and larger context to which these verses may be applied?
4. Discernment and Obedience
 - A. Building on A Sure Foundation (Matt 7:24-27; cf. 1 Cor. 3:12-15)
 - B. Maintaining A Careful Vigilance (1 Thess. 5:21-22; cf. Acts 17:11)
 - C. Forming A Pattern for Faithfulness (Phil 1:10; Rom. 12:2)
 - D. Continuing Maturity (Eph 4:11-16)
5. Beware:
 - A. Hirelings (John 10:11-13)

Hirelings abandon the flock in the face of conflict or danger leaving the sheep defenseless.
 - B. Wolves (Matt 7:15-20)

These kinds of wicked leaders are distinguished by the fact that they feast upon the flock they were to lead. These men appear on the surface to be shepherds, but underneath the veneer of orthodoxy, they are ravenous in their wickedness. Wolves manage the flock so that they might continue to feast on them.
 - C. False Teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude 4; cf. Deut. 13:1-5)

These teachers are distinct from the others because they teach things that are false. Not everything that a false teacher says is false. Often the false teaching is served on a platter with other good and mostly acceptable teaching. False teachers may have similarities to hirelings in their cowardice, and they will be like the wolves who feast on the sheep, but they will be distinct in that there will be severe errors in their theology.
 - D. Apostates (1 John 2:19; cf. 1 Tim. 4:1)

These individuals are distinct from the other three groups in that they will no longer attempt appear as one of the faithful.