

Matthew 7:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Analysis

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a parable contrasting wise and foolish builders. The 'wise man' (φρόνιμος/phronimos) demonstrates practical wisdom by building on 'rock' (πέτρα/petra)—likely bedrock beneath surface soil. The phrase 'heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them' establishes the critical connection: wisdom isn't mere knowledge but obedient action. The present participles 'heareth' (ἀκούων/akouon) and 'doeth' (ποιεῖ/poiei) indicate continuous, habitual practice. Building on rock requires more effort—digging through soil to bedrock—but ensures stability when storms come. This parable warns against superficial discipleship that appreciates Jesus' teaching but doesn't submit to His lordship. True wisdom responds to revelation with transformation.

Historical Context

Palestinian builders faced seasonal torrents during rainy season. Sandy wadis (dry riverbeds) looked like solid ground in summer but became raging torrents in winter. Wise builders dug down to bedrock, while foolish ones built on convenient but unstable sand. Jesus' audience immediately understood the illustration. The Sermon on the Mount presented radical kingdom ethics—this parable warns that mere admiration without application equals self-deception. James echoes this teaching: 'be doers of the word, and not hearers only' (James 1:22).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you hearing Jesus' words but not yet doing them?
2. What 'storms' have revealed the foundation of your faith—obedience or mere intellectual agreement?
3. How does this parable challenge modern tendencies toward consumeristic Christianity that values inspiration over transformation?

Interlinear Text

Πᾶς	οὖν	ὅστις	ἀκούει	μου	τοὺς	λόγους	τούτους
whosoever	Therefore	which	heareth	of mine	G3588	sayings	these
G3956	G3767	G3748	G191	G3450		G3056	G5128
καὶ	ποιεῖ	αὐτοῦ	ὁμοιώσω	αὐτοῦ	ἀνδρὶ	φρονίμῳ	ὅστις
and	doeth	him	I will liken	him	man	unto a wise	which
G2532	G4160	G846	G3666	G846	G435	G5429	G3748
ᾠκοδόμησεν	τὴν	οἰκίαν	αὐτοῦ	ἐπὶ	τὴν	πέτραν·	
built	G3588	house	him	upon	G3588	a rock	
G3618		G3614	G846	G1909		G4073	

Additional Cross-References

John 13:17 (Parallel theme): If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Luke 11:28 (Parallel theme): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

1 John 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Psalms 111:10 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Proverbs 10:8 (Parallel theme): The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

John 14:15 (Parallel theme): If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Job 28:28 (Parallel theme): And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Matthew 12:50 (Parallel theme): For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

John 15:10 (Parallel theme): If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.