

THE BIG IDEA: Hear it and do it and your faith will get through it.

The Take-Off

Have you ever listened to a sermon and gotten to the end of it and felt like it didn't apply to you?

I know, it's awkward for a preacher to ask that because it may be true more times than the hearers would want to admit!

We already know that Jesus is a communicator unlike any the world has ever known, and we see that more so today than at any point during His Sermon on the Mount.

Why? Because every word He has spoken applies to every single one of us.

The question isn't, "Does the word apply to our lives?"

The question is, "Will we apply the Word to our lives?"

Jesus wraps up the greatest sermon ever preached with perhaps the greatest closing story ever used, because Jesus takes 3 chapters of truth and turns it into one burning question: "What will you do with it?"

That's the bottom line, because that's the one variable in all of this.

We're going to see that the 2 examples used by Jesus in **Matthew 7:24-27** have everything in common except their answer to that question.

So let's read these verses and you'll see what I mean.

1. The 3 things we have in common

- a. This story isn't about 2 make-believe people; it's about me and you
- b. In 4 verses, Jesus reveals **3 things that we all have in common**: we're all hearing His words, we're all building a house, and we're all facing a storm.
- c. There are still people in the world who may never have heard the good news of the gospel.
- d. They still haven't heard the words of Jesus, and while we can and should do something about that, that's not the point today.
- e. The point here is that ALL OF US - no matter where we are - have heard His words.
- f. If we think back to the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, we'll remember that Jesus was mainly speaking to His disciples and that there was a crowd hanging around.
- g. Now, we see that the crowd stayed - all the people are mentioned again here at the end.
- h. So Jesus addresses ALL OF THEM - any of you who have heard my words
- i. We have the hearing in common
- j. We're also all building a house
- k. In the story, both people built a house, and my guess is that they both built nice houses
- l. Everything you and I do is another brick, another beam, another piece of drywall
- m. Every night when we lay in our beds completes another day of the build
- n. Some of us are going to sleep with a false sense of security and we don't even know it because the house looks great - everything looks sturdy - steady
- o. But remember the third thing we have in common?
- p. A storm is coming, and not just to some, but to all of us
- q. In the NIV, the first 16 words of verse 25 and 27 are identical - the wise and the foolish builder faced a building inspection and God used a storm to do it
- r. I don't know what your storm looks like - they are varied and they aren't "one and done"
- s. We all face multiple storms throughout our lives, don't we? Death, the end of relationships, the loss of a job, the loss of freedom, etc.
- t. Take a minute and type the storms you've faced in the comments - my guess is that you'll see some others who have faced the same storms
- u. All of us face storms - it's the third thing we have in common with these 2 builders
- v. COVID-19 is a storm, and I dare say that it is revealing the one thing that all of us don't have in common

2. The one thing we don't

- a. Listen, I don't want to complicate what Jesus makes simple, so I won't
- b. **The one thing we don't have in common is the foundation** - and that has everything to do with one thing: did we do what we heard?

- c. There are probably lots of reasons why people would choose to ignore Jesus' words and build on sand, but let's talk about only one: a life of obedience is hard.
- d. [Illust: the really expensive hole at LWCA]
- e. We talked about it some last week, but let me say it again: it costs something to build on the rock.
- f. **1 Cor. 3:11** / Jesus is the rock, yes
- g. Now, before all of us start convincing ourselves that we're building on the rock of Jesus, let me throw one more thought at us: the crowds were amazed at the end of this sermon, not at the words of Jesus, but at the authority with which He spoke those words
- h. What's that mean? Simply this: the foundation that the wise builder built on was the authority of God's word
- i. How do we know? Because he acted on them. He heard and he did. The foolish builder heard and he didn't.
- j. Obedience to the authority of the Word is what builds a house that will stand no matter what.
- k. We don't make the Bible match our lives; we make our lives match the Bible.
- l. How do we know whether or not we're doing that? Storms.
- m. Storms reveal which foundation we chose: the rock of what God said or the sand of what we feel about what God said.

The Landing

Here's how we're going to wrap this up and how we're going to land the whole "Win/When" plane: I'm about to give you one of the cheesiest Big Ideas ever and then I'm going to tell you my favorite part of this story from Jesus.

First, the Big Idea: When it comes to God's Word, **hear it and do it and your faith will get through it.**

Hearing isn't enough - **James 1:22** is clear:

"Don't just listen to God's word. Do what it says."

Now, let's talk about the best part of this story - and I'm asking you to give me some latitude here because it isn't actually in the story of the 2 builders.

Jesus ends with a house falling with a big crash, and yet I see the end as an opportunity for that foolish builder to rebuild the right way.

The storm revealed the wrong way to build, but it also released the builder from the wrong foundation and gave him an opportunity to use the rock for a foundation.

May I suggest that the storm of COVID-19 could be one of the greatest gifts we've ever been given if it reveals the areas of our lives that have been built on the wrong foundation? Wouldn't you rather find out now when you can make the change than in eternity when you can't?

What has the Corona revealed about your house?

I'm praying that all of us see this as a #CoronaCorrection and I'm encouraging you to use the time during this last song to recommit yourself to a life that is built on what God says - period - no matter what it requires of me

I'll close us out in prayer at the end.