



Two Foundations

December 21

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to the last LG of 2022! As it will no doubt involve Christmas celebrations and involves a familiar story the questions will be lighter.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is a famous example of His teaching. In it He speaks about that which is characteristic of life in the Kingdom (righteousness, Mt 5:17, 7:12) and how poverty of spirit is necessary to enter it. There is no room for religious hypocrisy only genuine dependence upon Christ (Mt 6:11).

Jesus' long conclusion contains 4 parts that bring the Sermon to a close. In each there is a warning but also an invitation:

1. **Two Ways:** We've either entered the Kingdom or we haven't.
2. **Two Trees:** False prophets who keep people from the Kingdom shall be known by their fruits.
3. **Two Professions:** Professors are not known by their activities but by doing God's will.
4. **Two Foundations:** True disciples are those who've taken Jesus words to heart to the extent they've believed them and built their life upon Him.

KEY POINT: decision and perseverance

CHALLENGE: Read Ch. 5-7 in one sitting

A.M. SERMON RECAP (The Coming of Xmas, Mt 1:18-25)

- Why do we often focus on Mary and not Joseph?
- "In this way." What are some of the moving parts in this story, why do they matter, why did Matthew recount them?
- If Jesus is the Son of Abraham/David but also Immanuel, what kind of Christ is He?
- How is Joseph an example of true faith (c.f. what we've been studying in the Sermon on the Mount)?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (The Trustworthiness of Xmas)

- Looking at the Coming of Christmas apologetically, what reason do we have to trust Christmas?
- How does true meaning and joy flow from trusting and believing in Christmas?

READ: Mt 7:24-29

QUESTIONS:

1. **Can you share a time when you didn't lay a good foundation for a project or task and the result was terrible? Why did this reveal about yourself?**
2. **What does vv. 14, 20 and 21b have in common? What is the mark of a believer?**
3. *V. 24- should read "everyone therefore" or "therefore everyone." We need to see this parable in light of what has come before. Given v. 23 there is also the threat of Judgement in the air.*
4. *Wisdom and folly in the Bible refer to being morally discerning or not making good choices.*
5. *The parable builds upon ancient building habits and the storms that could often strike and turn hard sand into mud. **Beyond the visible what does each part of the parable represent?***

Discuss.

Wiseman-	Sand-
Wiseman's House-	Rock-
Foolishman -	Storm-
Foolishman's House-	

6. The question Jesus raises is "which am I?" What does this parable speak to those who are and aren't disciples?
7. How ought the entire Sermon to produce humility?
8. V. 28-Remembering it was the "crowds," does astonishment equal faith?
9. Why were they astonished? Who and what did Jesus base His teaching upon? What of that of the religious leaders (c.f. Mt 15:9)?

THE SERMON IN REVIEW:

1. How have your thoughts about the Sermon changed?
2. What struck you the most from the Sermon?
3. How do you intend to apply the Sermon?

Coming Up: Jan 11/13- Acts 1:12-26, Matthias Replaces Judas