

## The Wise and Foolish Builders

**Read:** Matthew 7:24-29

**Summary:**

In this last section of The Sermon on the Mount Jesus again presents a choice for His disciples. Just as He has warned them in the previous section not to be deceived by what they 'say and do'; He now confronts them not to be deceived by what they 'hear and do'.

*The Wise and the Foolish*

The 2 characters in the illustration are similar in so many ways: they both hear the same words; they have the same desire to build a house; they are in very similar locations; they both face the same tests and the story is told in a similar pattern... yet the result is radically different. One house stands and the other is completely destroyed.

The wise builder listens and obeys but the foolish builder does not.

Rather than ending the sermon with a BANG - Matthew slips in the two last verses... which underline the whole focus of what has been said.

*The Teacher – Jesus*

The crowd are amazed at His teaching. Jesus teaches with authority, speaking as He hears directly from His Father.

Jesus shows an amazing authority in this section and throughout the whole gospel. He has authority as Christ, Lord, Saviour, Judge, God's Son and as God!

**Application:**

Please select from the following questions, encouraging all to be honest and allow time for people to pray for one another.

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. What has God spoken to you recently that you have done / delayed / not intending to do?
4. Why do we find obeying Jesus difficult?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: 'Christianity is not about high ideals – it is about a risen saviour'?
6. What test(s) are you enduring at the moment? How does being a Christian make a difference?
7. It appears Jesus frightens people into the kingdom? Are we too 'gentle' in the way we share our good news?