



## Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 402. vss. 3-4 / TLH 394** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 7:24-27 (Mk. 3:13; Luke 6:17-49)

(Jesus says: as He concludes the Sermon on the Mount)

Vs. 24 – Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and PUTS them into practice (Does Them)

is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Vs. 25 – The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against (fall at ones feet, prostrate oneself) that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock. (Firmly Established)

Vs. 26 – But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does NOT put them into practice is like a foolish man (stupid, heedless, moron - μωρῶ -) who built his house on sand.

Vs. 27 – The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. - μεγάλη -

GREETING: Jesus says: Heaven and earth will pass away, but MY words will never pass away. (Matt. 24:35)

Alexander John Jordan (1914-1989) would go and have picnics at a place called Deer Shelter Rock in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Since he enjoyed the peacefulness of the area he began take his tent and camp through the night. One of those nights his tent blew away. It was from that night on that Alexander John Jordan was determined to build something more stable. What he ended up building, is what is now called, *The House On The Rock*, in Spring Green, Wisconsin. (If you get a chance to go and see The House on the Rock – it is fascinating.)

Some of the terms used for different foundations include:

- *Spread Foundations* = Long slabs of concrete extending beyond the outer edges of the building.

- *Pier Foundations* = Heavy columns of concrete that go down into the ground but only into the soil.

- *Pile Foundation* = Long slender columns of steel, concrete or wood that go deep into the earth to rest on a Rock bed. This is the type of Foundation used for Skyscrapers.

Today in this section of Scripture, Jesus is speaking about Foundations.

This section of Matthew is the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount.

First Jesus mentions the WISEMAN. The Wiseman builds his house on the rock.

This house stands up to a beating of rain, and rising waters and winds.

As one would expect, this house stays standing.

Jesus then speaks of the Foolish Man who builds his house on sand.

(Which can also be translated as seashore, beach sand)

Without surprise, when the storms of the beating rain, and the rising water and the winds come, the result is obvious. The house will not stand, and it comes down with a GREAT crash.

In this section of Scripture we can ask the question: Is Jesus simply telling us how important it is that when or if we build a house that we need to make certain that it is built on a strong earthly foundation?

NO, Jesus is going much deeper than just an earthly explanation.

The entire Sermon on the Mount is Jesus giving instruction to the Christians on how to live their life AS believers in Christ Jesus as their One and Only Savior from sin.

The Sermon on the Mount, is NOT a how to live your life in order to OBTAIN Eternal Life in Heaven!

Rather it is direction on how God wants us to live as we look forward to heaven.

We cannot work our way into heaven. “For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the GIFT of GOD – NOT by works, so that no one can boast. For we are GOD’S workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which GOD prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph. 2:8-10)

If we could work our way into heaven, or even assist in our salvation by things that we do or say, how many good deeds, and which ones, are good enough to erase the sins of the past?

Rather, “God demonstrated His Own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

And to demonstrate again from Holy Scripture the Work which Jesus did for us on the cross we also look at **Hebrews 10:10** – “We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once FOR ALL.”

This same truth is re-emphasized in **I Peter 3:18** – For Christ died for sins, once FOR ALL, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.”

And so DO NOT be led astray by those who falsely teach that by doing the things that Jesus lists in His Sermon on the Mount can earn or achieve eternal life in heaven.

Heaven is ALREADY won for us by Christ’s Perfect life, by His Innocent Suffering and death on the cross and that Victory which Christ Jesus won for us over Sin – Death and the Devil is demonstrated by His glorious resurrection from the dead!

In this section Jesus is not speaking of carrying out the 10 Commandments.

Even though it is true that the 10 Commandments are also God’s Will for our lives.

Rather in this section Jesus is speaking of **our Faith in Him** as our One and Only Savior from Sin.

Jesus is the Only Foundation which can remain standing in the face of any and every trial, adversity, disaster, and tribulation, and Jesus is the Only Foundation which gives a sure foundation of Salvation when the day of our death comes.

In this section of Scripture we know that Jesus is speaking of Faith in Him, and Him alone by looking at other sections of Scripture, as we “LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE”

In **John 6:40** Jesus says: “For My Father’s **Will** is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the Last Day.”

Jesus had even alluded to this fact earlier in chapter six of John when He said:

**John 6:27-29** – “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval.”

To this the crowds asked” What must we DO to DO the Works that God requires?

And Jesus answered: The Work of GOD is this, to believe in the One He has sent.”

And so: “What Type of a Foundation Do You Have For Your House?”

That is: Upon what or Who do you build your life?

Have you built your life upon earthly things such as wisdom, strength, family, earthly possessions, science, medicine? Can any of those things save your soul and body from the fires of hell?

This last verse of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is like a BIG exclamation point!!!

**Vs. 27** – **The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a GREAT CRASH.** - μεγάλη - This is a serious warning to everyone.

From the view point of someone standing on the outside and looking at both house from a distance, both houses look the same, the difference is The Foundation.

What is the Foundation for Your Life?

Alexander John Jordan made it his passion to build a house on the Rock.

It was built on a property of 240 acres that became his own.

The original house was built by Alexander John Jordan, carrying up the materials needed up the 60 foot chimney of rock.

May your passion for life be to build on Jesus The Rock of Our Salvation, as the Psalmist writes:

**Psalm 18:2** – “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in Whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

**Psalm 62:1-2** – “My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation’ He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”

