

T H E

heart



soul

D E V O T I O N A L

the wise builder

WEEK FIVE: AN INTRODUCTION



MATTHEW 7:24-27

reflect

Take a moment and reflect on the sermon from Sunday, November 12, 2023. You can watch or listen to it at cornerstoneboulder.org/sermons (select the fifth message in the Heart & Soul series). Read through Matthew 7:24-27 a few times and allow the words to wash over you as you close out your day.

THEREFORE EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE IS LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE; YET IT DID NOT FALL, BECAUSE IT HAD ITS FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK. BUT EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES NOT PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE IS LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON SAND. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE, AND IT FELL WITH A GREAT CRASH.



MATTHEW 7:24-27

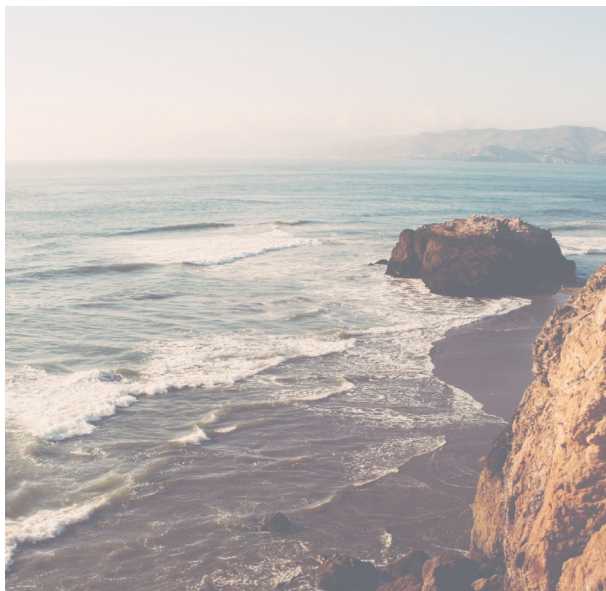
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DAY ONE



MATTHEW 7:24-27

K I N G D O M C O M E



As Jesus finished His "Sermon On The Mount," the people were amazed. The Gospel writer notes that the crowd was astounded by not only the content of His message but also the authority in which He spoke. His words resounded with the power to transform hearts and souls and experience The Kingdom Come.

In His final admonition, He boldly proclaimed that all who hear and put into practice His words were wise, but all those who heard and didn't follow His instruction were foolish.

THEREFORE EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE IS LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE; YET IT DID NOT FALL, BECAUSE IT HAD ITS FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK. BUT EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES NOT PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE IS LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON SAND. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST THAT HOUSE, AND IT FELL WITH A GREAT CRASH.

MATTHEW 7:24-27

To call some wise and others foolish may sound harsh, but Jesus knew that each person on that hillside would face storms that would shake them to their core. His message carried not only authority but also urgency fueled by love not judgment. He spoke to the heart and soul of all who would listen, offering them an invitation to build their lives on the unshakable truth, power, and love of God. A foundation so secure that no storm of crisis, flood of conflict, or gust of pain could destroy.



R E F L E C T I O N

Just like they were to the original audience, the words of Jesus are an urgent message to us today, one of compassion and love, not condemnation. He knows the storms we face. He desires that we not be toppled over but have our lives securely attached to His perfect love, truth, and power.

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DAY TWO

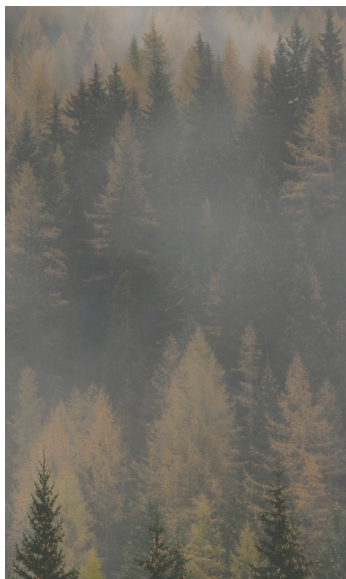
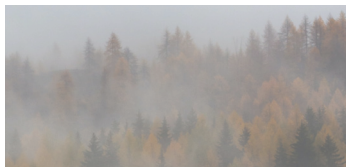


MATTHEW 7:24-27

READ

Take a moment and slowly read the section below from this week's passage a few times.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."



H E A R

AS YOU REFLECT ON THE WORDS OF JESUS,
NOTICE THE CORRELATION BETWEEN "HEARING"
AND "PUTTING INTO PRACTICE."

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HEAR AND ACT UPON
WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FOR THE LORD?

INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL AREAS/
TIMES IN WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD/READ THE
WORDS OF GOD AND ACTED UPON THEM.

HOW HAS THIS POSITIVELY IMPACTED YOUR
LIFE? YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS?

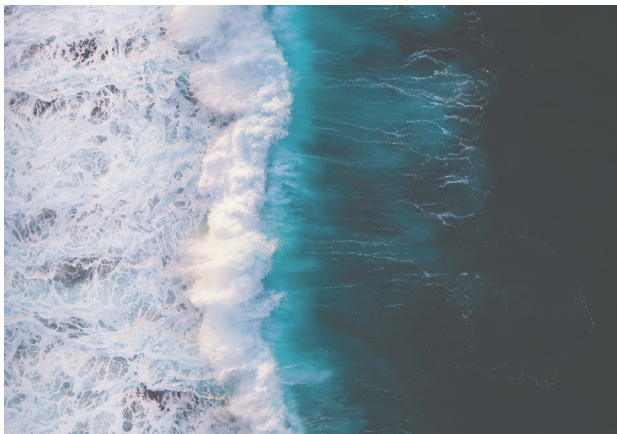


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DAY THREE



MATTHEW 7:24-27



**BUT EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF
MINE AND DOES NOT PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE
IS LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE
ON SAND. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS
ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST
THAT HOUSE, AND IT FELL WITH A GREAT CRASH.**

MATTHEW 7:24-27

B E C O M E A W A R E

As you reflect on this passage, Ask the Holy Spirit if there is an area of your life where you are not "putting into practice" the instructions of Jesus.

As you become aware of an area, take a moment to think about why you have been resistant to act upon Jesus' instructions.

What has hearing His words but not putting them in practice cost you? (Maybe it has caused you to feel shame or distant from Him.)

Is this something you want to change? If so, in your own words, tell Jesus that you recognize the disconnect and why you think you have been resistant. Ask Him for forgiveness. Tell Him that you want to move forward acting in accordance with His will and ways.

Take a moment and quietly receive His grace and mercy.

Ask The Holy Spirit to begin to reconstruct this area of your life, moving it from the shifting sands of your own will to the rock foundation of His.

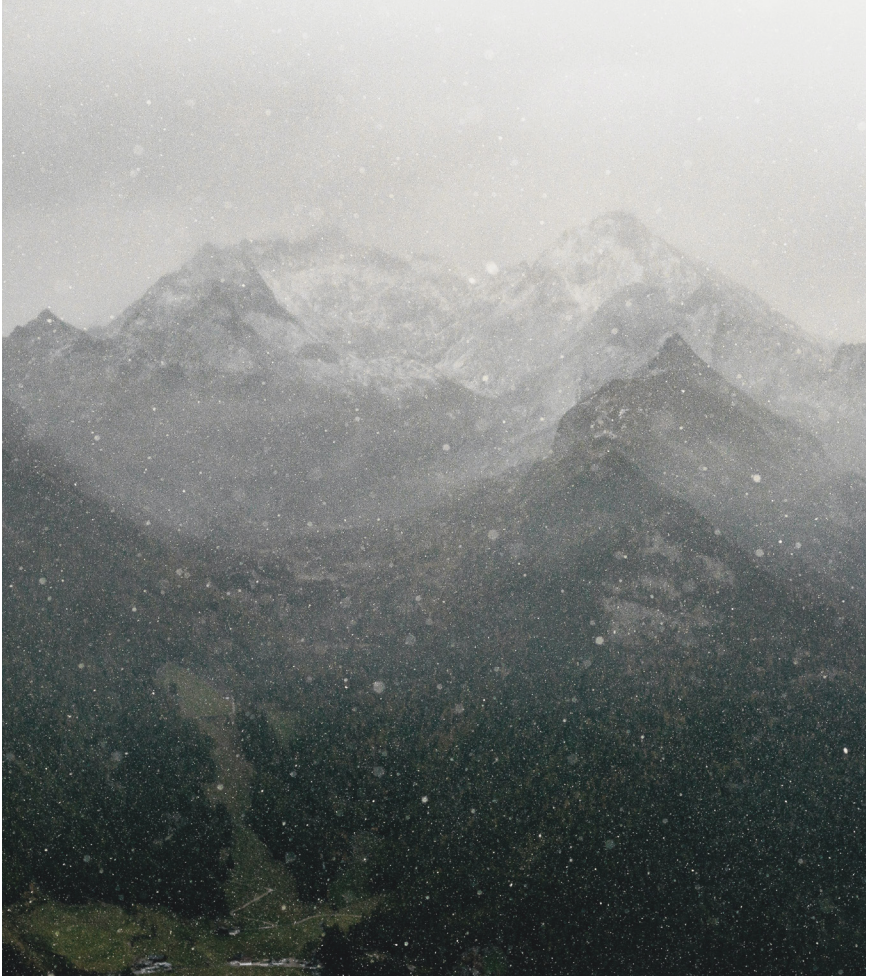
Finally, ask The Holy Spirit to help you daily practice living out the teachings of Jesus.



DAILY PRACTICE

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DAY FOUR



MATTHEW 7:24-27

TAKE A MOMENT AND SLOWLY READ THE
SECTION BELOW FROM THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE.

"THEREFORE EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE
WORDS OF MINE AND PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE
IS LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON
THE ROCK. THE RAIN CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS
ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT AGAINST
THAT HOUSE; YET IT DID NOT FALL, BECAUSE IT
HAD ITS FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK."

MATTHEW 7:24-27

N O T I C E

Read it again and notice that even houses built on “the rock” experience storms.

What does this tell you about the life of following Jesus?



**NOW READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES
BELOW FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
AND BOOK OF PSALMS.**

**I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, SO
THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN
THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE.
BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME
THE WORLD.**

JOHN 16:33

**EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE
VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE
WITH ME: YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF,
THEY COMFORT ME.**

PSALM 23:4

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DAY FIVE



MATTHEW 7:24-27

S T O R M

“The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

As you reflect on the passage above, what storms are you facing in your life right now. (Maybe it is relational conflict, financial hardship, or health issues.)

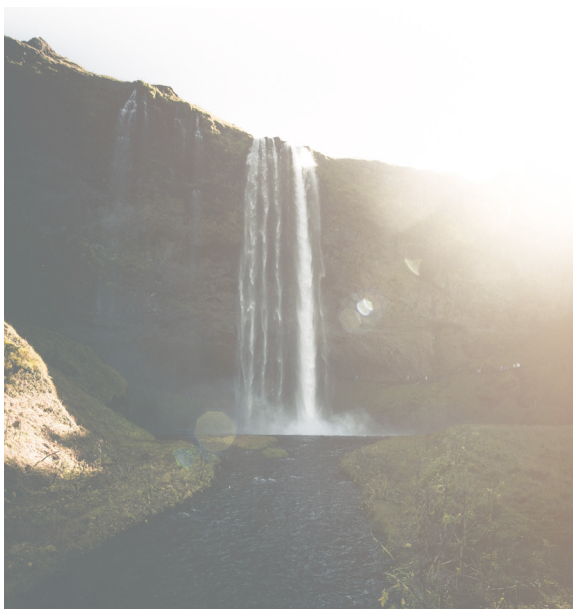
Invite The Holy Spirit to be present with you as you think about this “storm”.

Notice your feelings as you think about this area. Now put words to your feelings (Maybe the feeling is fear, confusion, helplessness, stuck, anger or dread.)

Tell Jesus about the storm. Use as much time and detail as you want.

**AFTER YOU HAVE PRAYERFULLY TOLD HIM
ABOUT THE SITUATION, TELL HIM HOW YOU
FEEL.**

**ASK JESUS TO BE WITH YOU IN THE MIDST OF
THE STORM. ASK HIM TO STILL/CALM YOUR
HEART AND SOUL WITH HIS UNSHAKABLE
LOVE, TRUTH AND POWER.**



CALM

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DAY SIX



MATTHEW 7:24-27

TAKE A MOMENT AND SLOWLY READ THIS
WEEK'S PASSAGE.

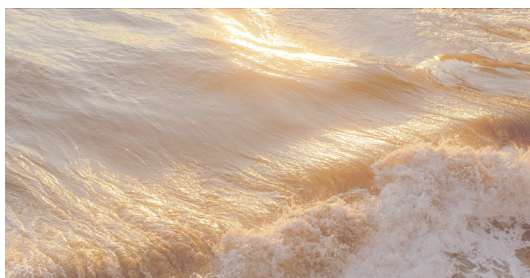
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MATTHEW 7:24-27

holy spirit

**Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you
as you reflect on Jesus' words.**

**Ask The Holy Spirit to help you hear
them as words of love, not judgment;
compassion, not condemnation.**



R E S P O N D

In light of what you have read above,
now read the passage below.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

James 1:5-6

What are the parallels between these
two passages?

What do they tell us about the nature
and character of God?

Ask The Holy Spirit how you are to
respond today to what you have read?
Finally ask the Holy Spirit to give you
the grace, strength and courage to live
out what you have read.

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BRINGING HEALTH AND WHOLENESS
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