

## Build Your House on the Rock; Matthew 7:24-27

### I. Foundations

- A. Foundations are the key to building a great house (or office, etc.)
- B. I learned that my home is built on what used to be a dairy farm
  - 1. Because there is so much cow waste there is a lot of shifting
  - 2. Shifting breaks sewer pipes
  - 3. My house is built on a slab of concrete so I have to break up my concrete slab to fix broken pipes under my house
  - 4. The foundation of my house could be better
- C. Jesus says to build your house (life) on a strong foundation (His words)
- D. Matthew then gives us a bunch of examples of that foundation

### II. Cleansing

- A. Matthew 8:1–4 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” <sup>3</sup> And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”
- B. The humility of the leper is great, “if you will”
- C. Jesus’ response, “I will” shows us His desire to cleanse

### III. Healing

- A. A Centurion’s servant
  - 1. Matthew 8:5–10 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, <sup>6</sup> “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” <sup>7</sup> And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” <sup>8</sup> But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.
  - 2. A Centurion was a professional officer of the Roman army commanding anywhere from 80 to 1000 soldiers
  - 3. Even a professional Roman officer realized the authority and power of Jesus
  - 4. His faith was more than that of the so-called religious leaders of Israel!
- B. Peter’s mother-in-law and many others
  - 1. Matthew 8:14–17 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. <sup>16</sup> That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”
  - 2. The people everywhere He went recognized His authority

### IV. Calming

- A. Matthew 8:23–27 (ESV); <sup>23</sup> And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little

faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

- B. We have all been in severe storms
  - C. We just had a severe wind storm Tuesday
  - D. Last year we had a severe hail storm that destroyed the roofs of many homes and even this church building
    - 1. I remember it was Wednesday night during Bible study
    - 2. It sounded like the roof was going to cave in
    - 3. I stopped teaching several times because it was so loud I didn't think anyone could hear me
  - E. Now, imagine being in the middle of a storm so severe that you are in fear of your very life!
  - F. “Peace, be still”
- V. Forgiving
- A. Matthew 9:1–7 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. <sup>2</sup> And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” <sup>3</sup> And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? <sup>6</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” <sup>7</sup> And he rose and went home.
  - B. Marks account (2:3-12) includes the friends tearing off the roof and lowering the paralytic down in front of Jesus
  - C. What makes this event so amazing is that Jesus equates his authority over physical and spiritual (to cleanse, heal, and calm) with forgiving sins
  - D. Here is the foundation which we build on — the forgiveness of sins
    - 1. It is only Jesus who can provide this forgiveness
    - 2. Hebrews 9:11–14 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
    - 3. Hebrews 10:4–12 (ESV); <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” <sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. <sup>11</sup> And every priest

- stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,
4. Revelation 7:14 (ESV); I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
  5. 1 John 1:7 (ESV); But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- E. Who else has offered such a sacrifice on our behalf? (no one!)
  - F. Who else put together a plan to redeem mankind from the very beginning, the foundation of the world? (no one!)
  - G. Who else has authority over the physical and the spiritual — even death itself? (no one!)
- VI. Follow
- A. This is why we follow Jesus
  - B. This is why we build our lives on the foundation of His authority
  - C. Matthew 7:28–29 (ESV); <sup>28</sup> And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.