

STUDY NOTES ON THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS: -

We shall study the Parable of Jesus that ends His Sermon on the Mount, of the wise and foolish builders in Matthew 7:24 – 27. But before examining the parable itself, we shall examine the three preceding verses in Matthew 7:21 – 23. Why should we examine these three verses first? Because Jesus' parable of the two different types of builders, is an illustration of the eternal destiny of the two different types of professed believers in Christ, as portrayed in VS. 21 – 23. The very first word of VS. 24, confirms the connection between the two passages – **“Therefore”** - because of the truths that Jesus taught in VS. 21 – 23, **“therefore”** He tells the parable of the two different types of builders.

- Jesus describes that the condition of being able to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, is not based upon a professed believer calling Jesus Lord. No, the entrance is for those who *do* His Heavenly Father's will.

Matthew 7:21: - “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

- Jesus, at His first advent, came as a servant to do the will of His Heavenly Father. This was revealed in doing those things that pleased His Father. He was obedient to His Father's Commandments. This was prophesied of the Messiah who would delight to do God's will, by having God's Law within His heart.

John 4:34: - “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

John 5:30: - “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

John 8:29: - “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”

John 15:10: - “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”

Psalms 40:7 & 8: - “Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.”

- Jesus prayed that His Father's will would be performed on earth, just as it is done in Heaven. We know that according to the Psalmist, God's Holy Angels perform His will or pleasure, by being obedient to His commandments.

Matthew 6:10: - “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.”

Psalms 103:20 & 21: - “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”

- The following Scriptures give us further insight as to what God's will is for His followers, and who are Jesus' spiritual family..

Matthew 12:49 & 50: - “And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

1st Thessalonians 4:3: - “For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”

1st Peter 2:15 & 16: - “For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.”

1st Peter 4:1 & 2: - “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”

- The fate of the second group of professed followers of Christ on the Day of Judgment is given in the following two verses. It matters not what anyone boasts concerning their great works of miracles, of having the gift of prophecy, or of the casting out of devils in Christ’s name; if they have not been obedient to the Father’s will. Christ will reject them entirely.

Matthew 7:22 & 23: - “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity¹.”

NOTE: - Notice the solemn truth, that Jesus NEVER recognized them as being His followers – “*I never knew you!*” And Jesus has given us the reason WHY He rejects them, in spite of their parading all of their so called good works before Him. They were workers of iniquity – or lawlessness², while professing to follow Christ!

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows His true sheep who follow His voice [or teachings]. Obviously, those whom Christ rejects on the Day of Judgment were never His true sheep at all!

John 10:14 & 27 & 28: - “I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. ... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.”

- If a person claims to have the gift of prophecy, or to understand all of God’s mysteries and knowledge, or has great faith, and yet they do not have charity – love, they won’t be saved, irrespective of their profession of Christ. And our true love for God is manifested by keeping God’s Commandments.

1st Corinthians 13:2: - “And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”

1st John 5:2 & 3: - “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

- These professed followers of Christ, self-righteously tell Christ all the good things they believe that they have done in His name. This is the mindset of the Pharisee in his prayer to

¹ The Greek word that is translated as “iniquity” in Matthew 7:23 is the word ἀνομία – “**anomia**” – Strong’s Greek Number 458. It is defined as “lawlessness” - Walter Bauer’s Greek- English New Testament Lexicon, p. 72. – 2nd edition – 1979.

² INIQUITY is defined as “INIQUITY, n. [L. iniquitas; in and oequitas, equity.]”

“1. Injustice; unrighteousness; a deviation from rectitude; as the iniquity of war; the iniquity of the slave trade.” – Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

God [which prayer went no higher than the ceiling], who told God all the good things that he supposed he had done! This self-righteousness is worthless with God!

Luke 18:11 & 12: - “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”

- The fate of the workers of iniquity is dire indeed!

Psalm 5:5: - “The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.”

Psalm 6:8: - “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.”

Psalm 37:1 & 2: - “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.”

Psalm 92:7 - 9: - “When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; *it is* that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, LORD, *art most* high for evermore. For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.”

Isaiah 59:1 & 2: - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.”

Matthew 13:41 & 42: - “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

THE PARABLE ITSELF: -

THE WISE BUILDER – hears and obeys Christ’s Words or Teachings: -

Matthew 7:24 & 25: - “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

- We have been exhorted in the New Testament to be not only a hearer of the Word, but to be a doer of the Word as well.

Luke 8:21: - “And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

Luke 11:27 & 28: - “And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”

Romans 2:13: - “(For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”

James 1:22 – 25: - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

- The ROCK upon which the wise hearer built his house upon, is our God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 32:3 & 4: - “Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. *He is* the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.”

Psalm 18:2: - “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.”

Psalm 92:15: - “To show that the LORD *is* upright: *he is* my rock, and *there is* no unrighteousness in him.”

Isaiah 26:4: - “Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* *everlasting strength.”

NOTE: - For the words “*everlasting strength*” the margin has “Hebrew *the rock of ages*, Deut. 32.4.”

1st Corinthians 10:4: - “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

THE FOOLISH BUILDER – hears and does NOT obey Christ’s Words or Teachings: -

Matthew 7:26 & 27: - “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

- Proverbs 1:7: - “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

- If we call Jesus Lord, we should follow His teachings.

Luke 6:46: - “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

- If we claim to be abiding in Christ, we should walk [or live] as Jesus did.

1st John 2:4 – 6: - “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

- If we claim the name of Christ, we should depart from iniquity.

2nd Timothy 2:19: - “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

- **Let us state it very clearly:** - We can ONLY be a doer of Christ’s teachings or words from the heart, through living faith in Jesus Christ, and only through the living experience of abiding in Christ through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Because without, or apart from Christ, we can do NOTHING.

John 15:1 – 8: - “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

Romans 3:28 - 31: - “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

Romans 6:1 - 7: - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is *freed from sin.”


NOTE: - * In VS. 7, for the word “*freed*” the margin has based on the Greek text - “***justified.***”
“***For he that is dead is justified from sin.***”

Romans 6:20 - 23: - “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 8:1 - 4: - “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

- We must walk very carefully otherwise we shall fall.

1st Corinthians 10:12: - “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

 **IN CONCLUSION:** - We are to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. It is essential to keep or obey Jesus’ sayings or teachings, so that we will NOT suffer Eternal Death – the Second Death. Matthew 4:4: - “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

John 8:51: - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.”

NOTE: - The expression “*he shall never see death*” – in the Greek Received text reads as follows: -

θάνατον οὐ μὴ θεωρήσῃ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. - Transliterated into English it reads as: -
“thanaton ou mē theōrēsē eis ton aiōna.”

A literal translation is: - “*in no wise shall he see death forever.*” – The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament; by George Ricker Berry.

This saying of Jesus reveals the truth that those who obey His words or sayings, shall not suffer Eternal Death – which in the Book of Revelation is described as, *the Second Death in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone* – “*shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” – Revelation 21:8.