**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Weather the Storms of Life |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 7:24-27 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1712 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. We have a very serious problem today in what we call the Christian world.
		1. The problem is dropout disciples, collapsing Christians, and famishing church members.
			1. People who, when they should be standing up, are folding up.
			2. They get baptized and come to church for a while; but when trouble comes, they fall away.
				1. They fizzle a little while, and then they are gone.
				2. They are superficial saints.
	2. The reason they fall away is that they have no real foundation in their lives.
		1. When the storms come, they are blown away.
	3. Matthew 7:24-27
		1. “Great was the fall of it,” means, “Tragic was the fall of it.”
		2. In this passage, Jesus was talking about building on a firm foundation.
	4. If the bottom has fallen out of your life, then go back and examine the foundation.
	5. There are three categories of people:
		1. Those who are just getting out of a storm.
		2. Those in the midst of a storm.
		3. Those who are getting ready to get into a storm.
	6. The storm is coming.
	7. In today’s message, we will look at three things that will help us to weather the storm.
2. we need to erect a sturdy building (matthew 7:24, 26)
	1. Matthew 7:24
	2. We are all building some kind of a spiritual house.
		1. I cannot live in the house that you build.
		2. You cannot live in the house that I build.
		3. We will stand or fall in the house that we build.
	3. The Lord talks about two kinds of builders:
		1. A wise builder who built his house upon a rock.
			1. Matthew 7:24
		2. A foolish builder who built his house upon the sand.
			1. Matthew 7:26
	4. In many ways, these two builders are very much alike.
		1. The Lord in this passage is not talking about the out-and-out pagan.
			1. He is talking about two categories of persons who have heard His Word.
		2. They both have the same basic purpose.
			1. They are both house builders.
		3. They are both building their houses in the same basic place.
			1. The same storm that hit one also hit the other.
		4. They both used the same basic plan.
			1. They had a floor, walls, and a roof.
			2. You can have different designs, but there is the same basic plan.
	5. There was a vital difference in these two builders.
		1. The difference was below the surface.
			1. The difference is not what we see when we look around.
		2. The difference is in the foundation.
			1. The rock builder built his house upon the rock.
				1. Luke 6:48
				2. A house with a good foundation can withstand the storm.
			2. The sand builder built his house upon the sand.
				1. A house can be built more quickly if we don’t bother with a foundation.

It’s easier, quicker, and less costly.

Your house will look just as good as your neighbor’s.

* 1. What makes a firm foundation? What is building upon the rock?
		1. Matthew 7:24
			1. There are two things necessary to have a firm foundation:
				1. Hearing the Word of God.

“Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine.”

Romans 10:17

* + - * 1. Heeding the Word of God.

“And doeth them.”

This is what separates the rock builders from the sand builders.

* 1. James 1:22
		1. James must have been thinking about what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24.
		2. Anyone is self-deceived who hears the Word of God, does not do the Word of God, but has the idea that he has done what he is supposed to do.
			1. It’s like a person who goes to church and enjoys the message and the music, but there is no change in his lifestyle.
			2. That person is deceived; he is self-diluted.
	2. James 2:14-26
		1. This is one of the most controversial passages in Scripture.
		2. The Greek manuscript states verse 14 this way, “Can that faith save him?”
			1. This speaks of faith without works.
	3. We are saved by grace through faith alone and not of works of any kind.
		1. Titus 3:5
		2. Ephesians 2:8-9
		3. Romans 11:6
			1. Paul was saying that we cannot mix grace and works.
				1. Yet, James says that faith without works is dead.

James 2:26

* 1. James and Paul were not having an argument; they were in agreement.
		1. 2 Timothy 3:16
		2. They were talking about heads and tails of the same coin.
			1. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, “Whosoever hears these saying of Mine, and does them, is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock.”
				1. Matthew 7:24.
	2. While we are saved by faith alone, the faith that saves is never alone.
	3. The difference between what James and Paul said includes the following:
		1. Paul was talking about how to be justified in the sight of God.
			1. James was talking about how to be justified in the sight of men.
				1. James 2:18

You can’t see my heart; you can’t see any faith in me.

God can see it, but you can’t see it.

The only way that you can know my faith is by what you see in me.

* + 1. Paul was talking about the root of our salvation.
			1. James was talking about the fruit of our salvation.
		2. Paul was talking about the foundation.
			1. James was talking about the building.
		3. Paul was talking about the provision of our salvation.
			1. James was talking about the proof.
		4. Paul was talking about the marks.
			1. James was talking about the means.
		5. Paul was talking about a know-so salvation.
			1. James was talking about a show-so salvation.
	1. If we are truly saved, then it is more than just mental assent or head belief.
	2. Without true faith, what we say is just a profitless profession.
		1. James 2:14
		2. It will take more than a pious platitude to get your soul into Heaven.
		3. You say that you have faith, but do you have faith?
			1. Has there been a radical, dramatic change in your life?
			2. You may have profession without possession.
		4. It is like saying to someone who is hungry and cold to go their way and be warm and full.
			1. What good does that do if you don’t give him some food and put clothes on him?
		5. What good is it to say that you know the Lord when you don’t know Him?
	3. Without true faith, it is a barren belief.
		1. James 2:18-19
			1. The devil’s demons in Hell are very orthodox.
				1. They tremble before the Lord.
			2. The word “tremble” in this passage actually means to make the hair stand up on the back of the neck.
				1. They tremble at the very thought of one God.
			3. Jesus has authority over all of the demons.
		2. Many people think that just because they have a mental assent to the facts of the Gospel and because they are working in the church that they will go to Heaven.
			1. But they have no more faith than the devil himself.
			2. They have never surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
				1. Matthew 7:21

He is not talking here about a works salvation.

* + 1. We must surrender our lives totally to the Lord Jesus Christ, or else our belief is a barren belief.
	1. James gives two examples and one illustration:
		1. James 2:21
			1. When was Abraham counted righteous?
				1. Abraham offered Isaac upon the altar in Genesis 22.
				2. In Genesis 15, the Bible says that Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

* + - 1. What happened in Genesis 15 when Abraham believed God was seen over thirty years later in Genesis 22 when he offered up Isaac.
				1. This is what Paul was talking about.

Abraham truly believed God, and it was made evident in Genesis 22.

* + - 1. Don’t say that you are saved and that you love God if you are not living by the Word of God.
				1. Matthew 7:21
		1. James 2:25
			1. James is talking about being seen before men.
				1. No one could see Rahab’s heart.
			2. Rahab was a harlot in the Old Testament who was saved.
				1. Her life was so changed that she married a prince of Israel and became the great-great-grandmother of King David.
				2. She was in the house and lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ.
			3. If your religion has not changed your life, then you better change your religion.
			4. Just hearing the Word of God does not save.
				1. It is faith.
		2. James gives a classic illustration in James 2:26.
			1. What good are theological facts without life?
			2. It’s not works that make a body alive; it is life that enables us to do those works.
				1. You cannot make a body alive by manipulating the body.

That doesn’t give life.

* + - * 1. It is life that gives the works.
	1. If you would be a rock builder, then you must hear the Word of God and heed the Word of God.
		1. James 1:22
	2. There are millions of people who trudge to churches on Sunday, listen to sermons, and who are going to die and go to Hell.
		1. Because there has never been a change in their lives.
	3. Matthew 7:24
		1. If you would weather the storm, then you must erect a sturdy building.
1. we can expect a stormy blast (matthew 7:25, 27)
	1. The storm fell upon both houses.
		1. Matthew 7:25
		2. Matthew 7:27
	2. When we are saved, it doesn’t mean that there will be no storms in our lives.
		1. There will be storms.
	3. Matthew 7:25
		1. The rain came down.
			1. That is pressure from above.
		2. The floods came up.
			1. That is pressure from beneath.
		3. The wind blew.
			1. That is pressure all around.
	4. Job 14:1
	5. Storms come to every life, whether they are saved (built on the rock) or lost (built on the sand).
	6. The storm will show whether or not you have a foundation.
		1. The storm will test your faith.
			1. The faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted.
	7. Don’t get the idea that when you are saved there will be no more trouble or difficulty.
	8. If we get our theology from circumstances rather than from the Word of God, then we will get the idea that God doesn’t love us.
		1. There will be sickness, suffering, persecution, heartache, and difficulty.
			1. Romans 8:35-37
		2. Difficulty in our lives does not mean that God has abandoned us.
			1. Hebrews 13:5
2. we can experience a steadfast blessing (matthew 7:24-25)
	1. Matthew 7:24-25
		1. Luke says that it beat vehemently upon the house.
			1. But it fell not, for it was founded upon the rock.
				1. Luke 6:48
	2. Why do some people cave in and are blown away?
		1. Because they have built upon the shifting sand of good intention.
		2. They have built upon the silt and muck of religious activity.
		3. They have never built upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
			1. 1 Corinthians 3:11
		4. 1 John 2:19
		5. This is not talking about sinless perfection.
			1. This does not mean that we won’t have doubts when the storms come.
				1. We will have doubts.
				2. We may stumble.
	3. When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount about two kinds of builders, most likely Peter and Judas were both there.
		1. They both heard what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27.
	4. Peter and Judas were two kinds of builders; they both erected a spiritual house.
		1. Judas’ house:
			1. Judas was the best man outwardly.
				1. He had the prettiest house.
			2. Judas was made the treasurer.
				1. The most trustworthy person was made the treasurer.
			3. When Jesus said that someone would betray Him, no one said that it would be Judas.
				1. They all said, “I wonder if it is me?”

Matthew 26:21-22

* + - 1. Judas had a good-looking house.
		1. Peter’s house:
			1. Matthew 16:15-18
			2. Peter was weak just like we are.
			3. He wasn’t much of a house builder.
				1. But he had a good foundation.
			4. He laid his faith on a firm foundation.
	1. A storm came, and it blew through the life of Judas and through the life of Peter.
		1. When the storm was over, Judas’ house was gone.
			1. Judas died and went to Hell.
				1. Judas didn’t lose his salvation.

He never had it.

John 6:70

John 6:64

* + - * 1. Judas never had real faith.
		1. Peter did have real faith.
			1. Luke 22:31-32
				1. The Savior interceded for him.
			2. When the storm hit Peter, a few windows were broken out, and some shingles blew off the roof.
				1. But he was still standing.
			3. Peter became the flaming apostle of Pentecost because he had the real thing.
				1. He knew God.
				2. He had heard the Word of God.
				3. He believed the Son of God.
				4. He bowed his knee to Jesus Christ.
			4. Yes, Peter was weak and failing.
				1. But the house stood that was built upon the rock.
1. CONCLUSION
	1. Can you say that your hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness?
		1. Do you stand on Christ the Solid Rock?
			1. All other ground is sinking sand.
	2. There are thousands of people in churches today that when the storms hit, they will be gone.
		1. When the storm comes, rather than standing up, they will fold up.
			1. They don’t have a foundation.
	3. The storm will come.
		1. Make certain that you have a sure foundation.
			1. When the bottom falls out, examine the foundation.
			2. 1 Corinthians 3:12
	4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16