

40-07-04.wpd—Building to Outlast the Stormy Blast
 wisdom, foolishness, authority, listening, obedience, trial, tragedy
 Mat 7:24-29

Kingdom living is the wisdom that withstands the storms of life.

INTRODUCTION:

–(Read the text) Mat 7:24-29, “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.” When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.
 –These concluding words of the Sermon on the Mount bring us to the final message in our series. The title of this last sermon is “**Building to Outlast the Stormy Blast.**” Jesus finishes by warning us to practice what He’s described as Kingdom living (life lived *according to the will of the King*). It’s not only the most logical way to live, but **HOM.idea**.

I. The Will of the King is Foundational

- A. When we want to communicate an idea’s importance, we might say, “*This idea is **foundational** to our understanding.*” In the *Sermon on the Mount*, we could say that the will of the King is foundational to understanding Kingdom living.
- B. All builders know that any building can only be as solid and stable as the foundation it’s built upon. **It doesn’t matter....**
 1. **How beautiful** the structure looks: *Good looks* impress humans, but God looks deeper than the surface. [What furniture lasts longer: soft wood covered with a thin hardwood veneer or solid oak?] (This is the problem with legalism—it’s a surface obedience. The *will of the King* must live in a believer’s heart and be lived from that heart.)
 2. **How much time** goes into building it: [some people boast of building their philosophy of life for 80 or 90 years, but age isn’t important to the God of the ages.] (Life is a sacred journey mapped out for us by the will of the King. God’s not interested in how far we’ve come, unless we’ve been traveling in the direction described by His will.)
 3. **How expensive** the materials we use: Unless we adopt God’s

value system, we can’t measure the worth of what we’re building with (already in this Sermon, Jesus warned us— Mat 6:19-21, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”)

TRANS: Kingdom living is the wisdom that withstands the storms of life. What counts with God, and what we should treasure during life’s journey, is putting His will into practice. All humans build, whether they realize it or not. But where are they doing it? Are they building on the strong foundation of the King’s will or on the sandy soil of their own will? The Christian choice of life’s foundation is clear: “*On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand... all other ground is sinking sand.*”

II. The Fall of Self-Will is Inevitable

- A. We are made of dust, and what’s built from dust and built with dust doesn’t seem to last too long— Ecc 5:15-16, Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind?
 1. That would make life meaningless, if we’re only made of dust, as taught by today’s wise men (who preach a materialistic view of humanity). **But NO!** We are spirit-body beings in God’s image!
 2. Foolish thinking, based on seeing this earthly dust as the primary value, will invest in this life alone, guided by a self-will that fails to see the true nature and destiny of humanity in God’s kingdom.
- B. Skeptics have accused Jesus of being an *idealist* [a wishful thinker], rather than a *realist*. But whenever Jesus preached the ideals of Kingdom living, He was revealing the reality of God’s will. He always spoke realistically about the harsh realities of this life. He warned everyone of the false idealism of trying to hold onto this life through self-will— Mat 16:25-26. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
- C. The human will is not evil. God designed it to be used, to be put into practice. **BUT** the activity the human will chooses to practice

can be evil and lead to the catastrophe Jesus describes:

1. *Self-will* can build the most elaborate mansion on most attractive *sandy land* in sight, but only the King can show the human will where it must build— Jdg 21:25 (ESV), In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (Each man was his own king, going his own way, doing his own thing...)
2. *Self-will* is strong, but it is useless against the inevitability of the storms of life [hurricane watchers, who refuse to evacuate, because they think they can ride out a storm, are very strong-willed people, but their stubborn will can be their undoing—they can be destroyed by their choices]— Prov 16:18, Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

CONCLUSION:

—When Jesus ended His *Sermon on the Mount*, “*the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*” The *authority* behind the *law* is not in its teachers, but in the

Lawgiver. It’s in the KING! They were amazed at Christ’s teaching, because He was the King, laying down the foundation of His Kingdom for all who would believe in Him and follow Him. He was teaching them His will, the *will of the King*, the solid rock of *Kingdom living*.

—**Kingdom living is the wisdom that withstands the storms of life.**

Jesus came to earth to become the Supreme Human King of the universe. He wants us to reign with Him, to sit beside Him as His Bride, the Church. That’s not *idealism*. That’s the solid-rock reality of human destiny, and no *storm*, no *trial*, no *politics*, no *circumstance*, no *accident*, and no *incident* can ever alter our future with Christ our King!

He is *King of kings* and *Lord of lords*. His kingdom will last forever, and He has invited us to join it now, to live it now, through the **Kingdom living** described in the *Sermon on the Mount*.

Matthew 7:24-29 (NIV)

24“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.

25The 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.

26But 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.

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

28When Jesus had finished saying these things,

29because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.