

Rock and Sand

“And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand ...” Matthew 7:26.

When He concludes the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells people that those who listen to His words and do them are as those who build their houses on rock. That is to say, a sturdy foundation. When the rains and the floods come, the house still stands. But those who hear His words and do not do them are as those who build their houses on sand. A foundation, Jesus says, that only lasts as long as weather permits – something outside the control of the house-builder.

We must constantly guard ourselves not to be a person who builds a house on sand. Because Jesus is not talking about those who don't know His words. He's talking about those who have heard Him yet do not obey Him. It's a hard pill to swallow but a true one: The more we hear the words of Jesus, the more accountable we are to obey Him. But this accountability is ultimately for the best of the hearers, because, as Jesus tells us, when rains and floods come, we can withstand the weather. Not because of how strong our house is that we built, but because of the strength of our foundation.

Think about it this way: Sand is made up of many things. Under a microscope we can see that it has various kinds of seashells in its grains. But we also find that it is made up of bits of rock. If we build our lives on a little bit of Jesus and a little bit of the world, then we still have a foundation that's made up of sand. Yes, our foundation has some rock in it, but it also has lots of other stuff we're trusting to keep our houses up when life's trials come. We still have a foundation that won't last through stormy weather. Jesus doesn't tell us to hear bits and pieces of what He says and to take what we like and to do away with what we don't like. He tells us that our entire foundation must be totally and completely made up of Him. When we have some of Jesus in our foundation but we've mixed it with other things, then it's true that we have rock in our foundation, but it's mixed with sea shells and other things. We've still built our house on sand. **[DJR]**