

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Hearers and Doers – Matthew 7:24–27 – Jean Davies w/c 23rd August 2020

These crucial verses end what is known as The Sermon on the Mount which Jesus began teaching at the beginning of Matthew 5. Jesus has taught the disciples and the crowds who followed Him many things. Now, He gives a final powerful illustration to send His message home.

Read and re-read Matthew 7:24-27, asking The Lord to teach you personally.

With this pivotal word “Therefore” in v24, He gives them a choice – to be hearers and doers of His word, or hearers only; to be obedient to His teachings or to forget, ignore or disobey them. In effect, He says “Now it’s up to you!” A key phrase in this study is “.... and puts them into practice” (v24, v26). His teaching is characteristically plain, authoritative, and direct. In challenging them, He is challenging us also.

Jesus describes two people in no uncertain terms; one who wisely builds a house on the rock, and the other who foolishly builds on sand. The two are building the “house” of their spiritual lives, but they have chosen two different foundations on which to build. There will be success and safety for the wise builder, and failure and disaster for the foolish.

Note that Jesus says, “**the rock**”, **not** merely “rock”, or even “a rock”.

In the varying adversities and afflictions of life, here described as pounding rain, rising floods and buffeting winds, Jesus teaches that there is spiritual safety for the one whose spiritual life is built on the rock. **What rock is Jesus referring to?** He is referring to the “rock” of Himself, the “rock” of Peter’s statement in Matthew 16:16,17 “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”; and the foundational statement that Jesus declared “.... on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome (or prove stronger than) it”.

His reference to “sand” is anything other than the rock of Himself and obedience to His teachings. Sand constantly shifts, as the changing locations of marker buoys at Mudeford Quay prove, whereas lighthouses are found on the firm foundation of rock to give light, warning, and direction.

Q1. Who or what is the spiritual foundation of your life? Is it the solid Rock of the Lord Jesus Christ alone, or the sand of something or someone other than Him, or in addition to Him?

Q2. What decisions are you reaching, or what views do you hold, based on the shifting sands of time or popular opinion rather than on the firm foundation of the Word of God?

It is said that the “New (Testament) is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed. The Lord is described as The Rock in both the Old and New Testaments, e.g. Deuteronomy 32:14, Psalm 19:14, 1 Corinthians 10:4..

Q3. In your adversities and afflictions of life, will you continue to trust the Lord to be your “Rock” as did Moses, David, Simon Peter, and countless other wise builders from ancient times right up until the present day, and be hearers and doers?