

Be a Wise Builder

Matthew 7:13-29

Key Verse: 7:24

“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.”

1. Read verses 13-14. How are the two ways different? What does it mean to enter through the narrow gate? What does it mean to go on the broad road? If the majority is not right, how can we find the right road? (Jn 14:6)

2. Read verse 15. What is Jesus’ warning? What characterizes a false prophet? Read verse 16-20. How can false prophets be recognized? What does this mean? What is the only thing to do with a bad tree?

3. Read verses 21-23. What do false disciples have in common with real disciples? What is the difference? How is it that those who know the Bible well and engage in many good activities can fail to enter the kingdom? What is the will of the Father? (Mt 6:10; 26:39; Jn 17:3,4) What does "I never knew you" mean?

4. Read verses 24-27. What do the wise man and the foolish man have in common? How are they different? What happens to the two houses when the rains and floods come? What do the rains and floods represent in our lives? How can we be wise builders? What does it mean to hear and put into practice Jesus’ word?

5. How does this parable of the wise and foolish builders related to the narrow and broad ways? To good and bad trees? To knowing Jesus and being known by him?

6. Read verses 28-29. What was the response of the crowds to Jesus’ teaching? (Notice other places in this gospel where a similar phrase is used: 7:28; 11:1; 13:54; 19:1; 26:1) Why must we listen to his teachings and put them into practice?