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BY THE BOOK

Truth In A
Tumultuous
World

WEEK 4 | How to Live the Bible

PRAYER

Wise God, my goal is to be wise like you. I pray that you will fill my mind with knowledge. Apply it to my life so that I make better choices. Help me plan better, work with efficiency, and devote myself to tasks that further the kingdom. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

From [A Prayer To Be Wise \[Matthew 7:24\]](#)

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Is there something that you keep putting off that you need to complete? If so, what is it and how do you hope to see it completed? If not, what is your secret to staying on top of all you need to do?

NOTES

WORD

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

[MATTHEW 7:21-27](#)

Palestine is naturally a land of hills and mountains, and as a result, it is subject to violent rains and sudden floods. The Jordan River annually swells to dangerous levels and becomes rapid and furious. The streams that run through the hills can suddenly swell with rain and spill tremendous amounts of water onto the plains below, sweeping everything before them. Houses erected within reach of these sudden deluges - especially those founded on sand or other unreliable foundation - cannot stand before them. The rising stream shakes a house to its foundation and erodes away its base until it falls. Rocks are common there, however, so it is not hard to find a solid foundation.

With this in mind, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by illustrating the benefit of obeying His words. It is not enough to hear them; they must be obeyed. He compares a person who hears and obeys Him to a man who builds his house on a rock. Introducing the Parable of the Two Builders ([Matthew 7:21-28](#)), He says, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man" ([verse 24](#)). He then describes this wise man as building his house, that is, his whole life, on the rock of genuine subjection to God. Conversely, the disobedient use unfit material as the foundation of their lives.

Martin G. Collins
[Parable of the Two Builders](#)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extremely strong), how would you rate the strength of your spiritual foundations? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Name 3 things that are important to you (apart from God). Do you know what God says in the Bible about those 3 things? How do you apply what he says to your life?
3. Why do you think it is important to obey God and his word? Why do you think that people can sometimes find it difficult to obey him?
4. This is the last part of Jesus' arguably most important sermon. Preachers generally end their sermons with a summary of their most important point so that the hearers will remember this the most. What do you think Jesus wanted the hearer to hear? What does he want you to hear and how might you apply it today?
5. Have you built your life on Jesus? Would you like to trust God, the Author of the Bible with your life, and start a relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER