



## **“Storm Proof”**

### **Matthew 7 Small Group Plan**

The Sermon on the Mount concludes with the same uncomfortable but undeniable choice that has characterized it through three chapters. What will we do? Which way will we go? Who will we follow? How will it end?

Growing up, when my dad would sense my youthful irritation with his guidance or advice, he would often say to me — “Bob, if I didn’t care about you, I wouldn’t even bother with you.” Now, I have a son. Now, I understand.

The Sermon on the Mount is often inspirational, often challenging, often uncomfortable, but always relevant. God “bothers with us” because He cares for us.

#### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- Describe the worst storm that you have ever endured (tornado, flood, etc).
- What do real, physical storms teach us about preparation and cleanup?

#### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

### **— WEATHER REPORT —**

#### **Matthew 7:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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.

- Describe the kind of emotional, spiritual, and relational “weather” people around you are going through.
- What about your own real life “weather” — how would you describe it?
- Why does it “rain” on both the “just” and the “unjust” (Matthew 5:45)?
- Are there storms that come into a life just because it is “Christian”? Explain.
- What is the roll of “wisdom” in this story?

— FOUNDATION ACCOUNT —

Matthew 7:26-27

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

- How are these two houses similar? How are they different?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to see the difference between genuine and counterfeit?
- What does the choice of “rock” or “sand” say about a person’s past?
- What do they say about that person’s future?
- How can storms reveal the depth and quality of a person’s faith?
- How does “foolishness” operate? How does it undermine faith?

— FEMA —

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Matthew 7:28-29

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

The Crowds responded to Jesus’ words (chapters 5-7) with amazement. Think back through the Sermon on the Mount and measure yourself. Plot where you are on a scale of 1 to 5 and explain your answer.

- **My foundation is currently:**

1	2	3	4	5
Unstable Sand	.....			Stable Rock

- **My impact in the world is:**

1	2	3	4	5
Salt with No Taste	.....			Potent Salt

- **My service to the world is:**

1	2	3	4	5
Hidden Light	.....			Lighthouse

- **When there are differences:**

1	2	3	4	5
I’m ready to fight	.....			I’m learning to cooperate

