



“Firm Foundation”

Matthew 7

Small Group Plan

The Sermon on the Mount concludes with an uncomfortable but undeniable choice. What will we do? Which way will we go? Where will we build? Who will we follow? How will it end?

Growing up, when my dad would sense my youthful irritation with the guidance or advice he was giving me, he would often say — “Bob, if I didn’t care about you, I wouldn’t even bother with you.” Now, I have a son and 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 storms teach us about the importance of preparation and cleanup?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— WISE BUILDING —

Matthew 7:24-25

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. ²⁵ 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” that 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?

