



Stepping Stones

Matthew 7:24-27 New Revised Standard Version

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

Notes: _____



“It is not the beauty of a building that you should look at; it is the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.” –David Allen Coe

His instructions were minimal: “Build a castle.” It was my senior year of high school and each day concluded with World History. We were just weeks away from Christmas break, but, before we could enjoy the holiday vacation, we had to submit our completed project for display in the school library. Did I mention it was a group project? I was determined that someone needed to take the lead on this if any in my group hoped for a decent grade. I felt like I had a leg up on the others because my granddaddy was into woodworking and had everything we would need including $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood. By the time it was completed, I don’t think Oppenheimer’s bomb could have put a dent in it. It was solid, detailed, and HEAVY as could be.

Well-built was my focus as I led our group through the building and decorating process. There was no way that I was going to put our grade in jeopardy due to poor building practices. That is the very issue which Jesus addressed in the parable which concludes his well-known “Sermon on the Mount.” But, rather than building a castle for a high-school class, he was focused upon the building of one’s life for participation in the “Kingdom of Heaven.” For three chapters, Jesus’ sermon challenges conventional wisdom and the things which his hearers had heard up until his arrival. At the heart of these words is Jesus’ emphasis upon “hearing” and “doing.” According to Jesus, how one decides to handle his teaching will determine that upon which one’s life is built.

- 1. Hearing and doing are not guaranteed.**
- 2. Doing God’s will doesn’t prevent storms.**
- 3. Appearances do not always ensure security.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, may my life be built upon nothing less than you. Amen.