

God Time Day 1: Be Wise, Not Foolish



At the height of Jesus' ministry, He teaches the famous Sermon on the Mount. It is the largest and most complete recording of any of His sermons in Scripture. Jesus covers many things in the sermon, but we are going to start with His closing statements. It is in these closing words that Jesus sets the stage, the foundation, for all His teachings.



Read Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash.



List the differences between the wise and the foolish:

Wise (v. 24)	Foolish (v. 26)

As Jesus is closing this sermon, He points out the difference between those who listen and put His teachings into action, and to those who merely hear His words and choose not to be changed by them.

Jesus uses the imagery of choosing a foundation to build upon to differentiate between the wise and the foolish.



Circle the foundation a wise man builds his house upon.

Draw a box around the foundation the foolish man builds his house upon.



As we begin this series looking at the Sermon on the Mount, pray for God to give you ears to hear what He says and a heart that is humble to listen and act upon His words.

God Time Day 2: The 5 P's of Life



PROPER PREPARATION PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE.

Reread Matthew 7:24-27 from Day 1.

Jesus compares wise and foolish behavior using the imagery of building houses on different foundations. Here is the thing: foundations are put in place before the house is built, and no one builds well in the middle of a storm.

Often, when the storms of life hit, we turn to God and try to do the building while the storm is raging around us. Unfortunately, that is just too late. For the house to survive the storm, the foundation and house building must be done in preparation, not in the heat of the moment.



Rewrite Matthew 7:24 in your own words:

God Time Day 3: Hearing Versus Listening



Have you ever tried to cram a semester's worth of learning into a single night of study? While some may be able to get away with this on occasion, it is no way to live our lives.

Reread and compare verses 24 and 26 from Day 1.

In communication, there is a difference between being someone who hears and someone who listens. Someone who hears knows what they are being told, and even understands what is being said, but that is as far as it goes. Someone who listens assigns value to the information and takes the corresponding action. The listener does something with what they've heard.



Read and meditate on James 1:22. *But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*



When studying God's word, are you a listener who acts, a "doer of the word," or a "hearer only?" Watch this short video.



God Time Day 4: It Matters Where You Build



Over the past few days, we have spent a lot of time talking about foundations. This is because a weak or unstable foundation can bring down even the strongest building. So why would anyone choose to build on a weak foundation?



Read Matthew 7:13-14

¹³Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

Just before Jesus talks about the two types of foundations in verses 24-27, Jesus describes two roads to choose from on which to direct your life.



Circle the words Jesus uses to describe the gate and road to destruction in verse 13.

Underline the words Jesus uses to describe the gate and road to life in verse 14.

Anyone who tells you that life as a follower of Jesus Christ and having a growing and personal relationship with God is easy is outright lying to you.

In verse 14, Jesus tells us that the narrow gate and difficult road lead to life. Back in verse 24, we read about building our house on the rock. Rock is the most expensive, difficult, and time-consuming foundation to build upon. Following Jesus is not easy. It requires work, time, and patience. Unfortunately, we often allow the idols of ease, comfort, and convenience to draw us to the wide gate and broad road, and to build on the soft sand – choosing the easy life.



Write down excuses that keep you from making the difficult decisions to do what God is wanting you to do.



Pray and ask God for the wisdom and courage to overcome.

God Time Day 5: One Step at a Time



Read Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.



Have you ever been camping and used a lantern at night? You notice the lantern only gives off enough light to show the next few steps. But the lantern moves with you, moving the light forward, which then reveals the next few steps.

When thinking about living according to God's will and following Jesus' teachings, it's easy to be overwhelmed. Where do I start? How do I change the direction of my whole life? When you look at it based on the end goal, it can seem daunting because you can't see the entire journey from start to finish. But remember, as you listen to God, through Bible study and prayer, it is not about a sudden and complete transformation. It's about choosing the road and making the journey a few steps at a time, allowing the Light, Jesus, to reveal your next steps.

What is one thing God is asking you to do to build on His foundation (ex. Bible study, prayer time, joining a 4G group, serving in a ministry, etc.)?



Now, write down three small, practical steps that you can take to help you achieve that one thing you wrote above.

1.

2.

3.



Choose one of these small steps and put it into action today.