

ROCK SOLID LIVING

December 14, 2014 Matthew 7:24-29 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 24

Recap: Jesus, heaven's king, came announcing the Gospel: Heaven's kingdom has come with Him! Heaven has invaded!

MAIN IDEA: Storms have a way of revealing the foundations we've built our lives upon. They especially reveal how our faith works... or doesn't.

"Therefore (in light of this) everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." **Matthew 7:24-27**

1. Hearing and doing what Jesus said is the WISE (narrow) route to go through life and creates stability in the storms of life.

"Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them." **John 14:21** NLT

Obedience of God's primary Love Language!

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." **Joshua 1:8**

2. Hearing and *not* doing is the FOOLISH (wide) road and will eventually bring disaster (*and* will put us on shaky ground when we stand before Jesus and give account).

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." **James 1:22** ESV

"Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change." **Romans 2:4** Message

3. Storms are Normal, and even though God may not have sent them, He will use them to grow our character, develop perseverance, cause us to value what truly matters, strengthen our faith, foster dependence, and REVEAL OUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS.

"... this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead...." **2 Corinthians 1:8-10**

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.
Matthew 7:28-29

Does Jesus have Authority in your life?

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" **Lk 6:46**