

Matthew 7:22-27
New Living Translation

Introduction: The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is going to fall. Scientists travel to the town of Pisa every year to measure the building's slow descent. They report that the 179-foot tower, which was built in 1173, moves about one-twentieth of an inch a year, and is now 17 feet out of plumb. Recent renovations may have saved the 810-year old tower and prevent it from collapsing. Quite significantly, the word "**pisa**" means "**marshy land**," which gives some clue as to why the tower began to lean even before it was completed. Also, another issue is the fact that its foundation is only 10 feet deep! The reason the Leaning Tower of Pisa is leaning is because it is built on a faulty foundation.

MATTHEW 7: 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³ **But I will reply, 'I never knew you.** Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

7:23 TPT "But I will have to say to them, 'Go away from me, you lawless rebels! **I've never been joined to you!**'

Ephesians 2:18 *"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father."*

1 Corinthians 6:17 *"But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."*

Matthew 16:13-19 (Message)

"When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?'"
*...They replied, 'Some think **(Some Say)** he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.' ... He pressed them, 'And how about you? Who do you say I am?'*

Simon Peter said, 'You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am.

And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

'And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven.'

In the end it is not about my performance, my church attendance, my giving, my witnessing or even my preaching! it is about me practicing putting myself in His presence. In other words, do you really know each other? Do you know each other's thoughts? Are we joined together by the hip? Is he in your business, in your relationships, is he in your speech? Is he in your practices?

Because of his protection you will never feel persecuted in his presence

TITLE: Finding your Foundation

24 "Anyone who listens to "my teaching" and follows (applies) it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.(TPT-unshakable foundation)

25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. **26** But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on

sand.²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

That is part of the great falling away where people’s love for Jesus grows cold. Their storm was greater than their savior!

This is not a behavioral modification message. Behave yourself or else! He was not telling us how to have a better life but how to have eternal life while you are living your earthly life.

Jesus is the foundation, the cornerstone, the bedrock on which everything should be built from.

The foundation of my Christianity cannot be built on anyone else’s foundation regardless of their title, testimony or experience. Why? They are still human.

Just because someone has a platform does not mean they are perfect. Platform without His presence is no more than a professional performer. Test everything and everyone against the Word! The reason a lot of modern-day Christians are running after a word is because they don’t go to the word themselves. They treat the prophets and the prophetic like tarot card readers.

We need to learn to hear God’s voice for ourselves. That only comes by putting in the time!

Jesus makes it clear that not all who profess Him possess Him

A mere profession of Jesus as Savior is not enough to save! A person may believe in the doctrines of the faith. They may be sincere and good. However, just saying you know Jesus is not enough to save your soul. Belonging to the church, being a good person, doing religious things, etc., are all good, but none of them can save the soul! Salvation comes only through the new birth, **John 3:3, 7**.

John 3:3 No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. **“Greek for again is Born from above”**

We are the benefactors of His righteousness! We are robed ready to reign

Jesus makes one of the most startling statements in all the Bible. He says that not everyone who claims Him as Lord will be saved! He is telling us that there will be some people who will think they are saved, but who, in fact, are still lost and headed to an eternity away from his presence.

As those people stood before the Lord, surely, they were shocked at what they had already heard. Now they are about to hear something that will forever seal their destiny.

He tells them, ***“I never knew you.”***

They had claimed to be working in His name. They had claimed that they knew Him. They had professed a relationship, but Jesus tells the truth. He tells them that at no time in their lives had He ever known them!

These are people who expected to hear the Lord welcoming them into Heaven. They were sincere. They thought they were saved. They knew all the catch words and the right things to say. They knew "Gospel talk". Why then will these people hear these words? Because they are basing their hope of salvation on their own works and goodness. Because they have failed to place their faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

Matthew 5:20 *“For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

The disciples were freaking out because they thought, how can I live a life more dedicated than the chief priest?

New Covenant is much more demanding than the Law of Moses!

If you think murder is bad in the 10 commandments, Jesus said, Matthew 5:21 if you are angry with your brother you have committed murder in your heart and are subject to Judgement.

Matthew 5:28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5 will mess you up!!!

Matthew 18:9 [New Living Translation](#)

And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

Galatians 2:16 *"We know that a person is **not** justified by works of the law but **through faith in Jesus Christ.**"*

Jesus is the gate, the door, the pathway. John 10:9 Yes, I am the gate.

Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

Galatians 5:4 *"You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."*

GALATIANS: 3 Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. ² Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not!

You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? ⁴ Have you experienced^[a] so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? ⁵ I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. ⁶ In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."^[b] ⁷ The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. ⁸ What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you."^[c] ⁹ So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith. ¹⁰ But those who

depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.”^[d] 11 So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, **“It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”**^[e]

You can’t pursue holiness by works of the flesh! You pursue holiness by having faith in Jesus the author and perfecter of your faith!! You can’t improve on the finished work of the cross

He is constantly challenging our religious self-righteousness.

I. **CONSIDER THE COMPARISONS**

This short parable appears to speak of two very different types of people. The two people Jesus pictures here have several important characteristics in common. Let me point them out.

- **Both Heard the Words of Christ** - The two people in this parable both heard Jesus share His message of faith and repentance, **vv. 24, 26**. Thus, both people referenced in this parable knew the way of salvation. They both heard the Gospel and each one had a reaction to it.
- **Both Built Houses** - Each of these people built a house based on their understanding of what Jesus said. The house in this parable is a picture of a life. That is, each man built a life based on how they interpreted the message of Jesus. This means that both people believed the message to a certain point. They each applied the words of Jesus to their life as they saw fit.
- **Both Built in The Same Location** - **Verse 27** describes a very severe storm. This storm affected both houses, so they must have been built in close proximity to one another.
- **Both Built Similar Houses** - Nothing is said about their houses being different. They used similar materials, and most likely, a similar design. From the outside, these two homes looked similar.

2. CONSIDER THE CONTRASTS

While there are several similarities, there are some very major differences between these two types of people. Those differences are worth noting.

- **One Man Built His House on The Sand** - One man built his house with little preparation. He found a spot for his house and began to build. Sand is unstable, ever changing and moving. Sand offers no stability. Sand is not a good place to build a house. Sand can never provide a firm foundation.

In this context, building on the sand speaks of people who hear the Gospel, but instead of believing the Gospel and coming to faith in Jesus, they believe they can build their lives on the shifting sands of human philosophy, wisdom, opinion, and religious achievement.

They are driven by outward, religious appearances and faith in themselves, rather than faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

People who build on the sand hear the Gospel and choose to save themselves. They hear the Gospel, and believe its general message, but they choose to follow God on their own terms. To them, His Word is open to interpretation. If He commands them to do something, they will obey if they choose to. If they don't like it, they won't do it.

They build the house of their lives on self-will, self-fulfillment, self-sufficiency, self-satisfaction, and self-righteousness. Theirs is a works-based religion that has the appearance of being right, but that lacks the power to save the soul.

Paul describes that kind of person like this: **2 Tim. 3:5**.⁵ They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

People build on the sands because it is easy. It requires little effort. Just a little change here, and a little change there, and they can fool themselves, and everyone around them in to thinking they are right with the Lord. A life built on the sand requires no commitment, no sacrifice, and no faith.

People who build on the sand believe they can pray a prayer, sign a card, join a church, and all will be well. People who build on the sand can turn it on and off like flipping a switch. They can be in today and out tomorrow and in again the next day. Sand builders ultimately have their faith in themselves.

When God makes demands on sand-builders, and calls for total surrender to His will, they make excuses. Jesus encountered this very thing during His ministry

⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead!^[a] Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." ⁶² But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." **Luke 9:57-62.**

People who build their lives on religion, self-righteousness, and false hope will not serve God. They will not sacrifice. They only walk the easy path. Sand builders like instant results, instant rewards, instant satisfaction, and instant pleasure. They are shallow people who love the heights but hate the depths. They are hot and then cold. They are in and then out. They are up and then down.

- **One Man Built His House on The Rock –**

Psalm 62:2 *“He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken.”*

The word “**rock**” refers to “**a large outcropping of rock; the bedrock.**” While one man built his house on the sand, the other dug deep. He dug until he reached the bedrock and built his house on the rock. The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation for a house.

Jesus is my rock and upon Him I will build the foundation of my life!

I have no worry whatsoever! I don’t care about the storms, accusations, sickness, etc.

1 Corinthians 10:4

New Living Translation ⁴ **and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ**

Building on the rock speaks of people who hear the Gospel and believe it to the point that they build their lives on it. The “**rock**” in these verses is identified as “**these words of mine.**” The “**rock**” is the Gospel. It is the same “**rock**” mentioned in **Matt. 16:16-18.** Those verses say, ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John,^[b] because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’),^[c] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell^[d] will not conquer it.

In that passage, “**rock**” refers to Peter’s profession of faith in the words of Jesus. In other words, it refers to faith in the Gospel.

Rock builders understand that Jesus alone has the power to save their souls. Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their

lives to it. They hear what the Bible says about Jesus, that He is ***“the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by Me,”*** John 14:6. They hear that message and they receive it with all their heart. They hear, ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,”*** John 3:16. They hear, ***“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,”*** Matt. 11:28. That message strikes them like a bolt of lightning. It comes into their hearts with absolute clarity.

They hear the truth about Jesus, and they believe it. They embrace it. They yield to it. The message changes their lives.

What God tells them to do in His Word, they do. What God warns them not to do, they avoid. They pay any price, walk any path, and do anything the Lord tells them to do. The house built on the rock is built by someone who realizes that God deserves the best. They sacrifice, they work, they do anything to honor the Lord. They love Him, honor Him, and obey Him. The rock builder’s obedience to the Word of God proves they love the Lord, John 14:15. Rock builders hear the Word of God, the Gospel, and make it the foundation for their lives.

By the way, this is how the redeemed know they are redeemed.

1 John 2:3–6. ³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

IN CLOSING: Consider the Consequences

So, there are two people who build very different lives based on how they hear and respond to the Gospel. One house is built on a firm foundation of

faith in the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ. The other is built on the shifting sand of religion, works, and self-righteousness.

One of those houses describes the kind of life you are building right now.

The person who built his house on the sand did not intend for his house to fall. He thought he was doing the right thing. He thought he was building a house that would stand against anything that came. He has confidence that his house will stand. He was wrong. His confidence is not in the Lord; it is in himself. His confidence is misplaced and misguided. There was nothing wrong with his house. There was nothing wrong with the materials. The problem with his house was the foundation.

That's the lesson today. If you are building your house on anything but Jesus Christ and the Gospel, it will fall. It might look sturdy. The materials might be all right. It might be pleasing to the eye. Everyone else might think the house is fine. But, if it is built on the wrong foundation, it will fall.

By the way, the one who sold this man the land upon which he built was the false prophets mentioned in **verses 15-20**. Beware of anyone who preaches any Gospel other than the Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Beware of anyone who says salvation is anything but by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. ¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.