

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19-25

Message Title: Your Foundation Determines Your Future

Message Text: MATTHEW 7:24-27

Before Your Small Group Meeting:

- Attend or Watch Scott Taylor's Message (Student Ministry Director)
<https://churchatviera.com/live/>
- Read Matthew 7:24-27 as a group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Personal Reflection

- What is one thing that challenged or inspired you from the message this week?

Key Theme

- This week's Scripture study explores the importance of our foundation in determining our future. How does your current foundation (whether on the rock of God's truth or the sand of human opinion) influence your response when going through a life storm?

Application in Faith

- This week's message emphasized turning faith into action and being doers of the Word, not just hearers. How do you actively apply your faith daily, especially during challenging times?

Sharing Your Story

- Share a time when you faced a significant storm in your life. How did your foundation in Christ help you navigate through it? How can you rely on your foundation in Jesus when facing a storm? (Optional: Share the storm you are currently facing with your group. Take a minute to pray for each other.)

Scripture Application

- Reread Matthew 7:24-27 and reflect on the parable of the wise and foolish builders. How does this passage illustrate the importance of developing a firm foundation in faith?

(Optional: Play the song "Firm Foundation" by Cody Carns https://youtu.be/x9ndiD0_gNk?feature=shared - How does this song strengthen your faith and give you hope?)

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The Role of the Holy Spirit

- How do you sense the Holy Spirit making God's Word personal to you, not just as general biblical information but as specific guidance for your life?

Practical Steps

- What practical steps can you take to ensure that you are hearing God's Word and putting it into action in your daily life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Understanding the Passage:

Verse 24: Jesus is teaching that those who **hear** (ἀκούει, akouei) his words and **put them into practice** (ποιεῖ, poiei) are like a **wise** (φρόνιμος, phronimos) person who builds their house on a **rock** (πέτρα, petra). This means they listen carefully, understand, and take action based on Jesus' teachings, creating a strong and stable life.

Verse 25: The house built on the rock withstands the **rain** (βροχή, brochē), **streams** (ποταμοί, potamoi), and **winds** (ἄνεμοι, anemoi) because its **foundation** (θεμέλιος, themelios) is solid. This illustrates that a life built on Jesus' teachings can endure difficult times and challenges.

Verse 26: In contrast, those who hear Jesus' words but do not act on them are like a **foolish** (μωρός, mōros) person who builds their house on **sand** (ἄμμος, ammos). Sand is unstable, symbolizing a life built on weak or unreliable foundations.

Verse 27: The house on sand collapses when the same storm hits, and it **falls** (ἔπεσεν, epesen) with a **great crash** (πτῶσις μεγάλη, ptōsis megalē). This shows that without a strong foundation in Jesus' teachings, one's life can fall apart under pressure.

Commentary with Key Greek Words:

Verse 24:

- **Hears (ἀκούει, akouei):** This word means to listen or hear. In Greek, it implies not just hearing sounds but understanding and considering what is heard.
- **Puts them into practice (ποιεῖ, poiei):** This means to do or to make. It's about taking action based on what you have heard.
- **Wise (φρόνιμος, phronimos):** This means sensible or prudent. A wise person thinks carefully and makes good decisions.
- **Rock (πέτρα, petra):** This refers to a large rock or bedrock. It's solid and unmovable, representing a strong foundation.

Verse 25:

- **Rain (βροχή, brochē):** This word means rain, representing challenges or difficulties in life.
- **Streams (ποταμοὶ, potamoi):** This means rivers or floods, symbolizing overwhelming problems or crises.
- **Winds (ἄνεμοι, anemoi):** This means winds, which can represent various trials or adversities.
- **Foundation (θεμέλιος, themelios):** This means foundation or basis. A good foundation is crucial for stability and strength.

Verse 26:

- **Foolish (μωρός, mōros):** This means foolish or unwise. A foolish person makes poor decisions without considering the consequences.
- **Sand (ἄμμος, ammos):** This refers to sand, which is loose and unstable, symbolizing a weak and unreliable foundation.

Verse 27:

- **Fell (ἔπεσεν, epesen):** This means to fall or collapse. It indicates total failure or destruction.
- **Great crash (πτῶσις μεγάλη, ptōsis megalē):** This phrase means a great fall or crash, emphasizing the magnitude of the collapse.