

This morning we look at the fourth warning Jesus gives us as He concludes the Sermon on the Mount. We have already looked at the first three warnings. We have three vital life questions and have examined Jesus' answer to each:

Which Way Are You Going? Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus tells us that the path we follow in our lives determines the destination we reach, and He is the only Gate that opens the way to eternal life.

Who Are You Following? Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus tells us that in others and in us the Christ-Life will persistently and progressively produce proof of the Holy Spirit's presence and power.

How Do You Get There? Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus tells us that we will all stand before God one day, and when we know that we know that we know Jesus, we never have to worry about His knowing us.

This morning Jesus challenges each of us to examine the answer to the fourth vital life question: Where are you building your life? Jesus tells us why the foundation of our lives is important. He also shows us how we can know the foundation upon which we are building our lives.

1. The Reality Jesus Exposes: Everybody builds their lives on some foundation.
  - a. You can build your life on God's truth, and it will stand strong through the harshest storms.
  - b. You can build your lives on anything else, and it will collapse during the storms that come.
2. The Requirement Jesus Expresses: Building on the strong foundation of God's truth is an intentional choice.
  - a. You must choose to receive God's truth; hearing is a choice.
  - b. You must choose to respond to God's truth; doing is a choice, too.
3. The Responsibility Jesus Examines: The choice for where you build your life is YOURS.
  - a. Your encounter with God's truth gives you options for your life.
    - i. There are precepts to embrace.
    - ii. There are principles to apply.
    - iii. There are promises to claim.
    - iv. There are practices to employ.
    - v. There are prohibitions to avoid.
  - b. Your response to God's truth guarantees the effectiveness of your life.
4. The Reaction Jesus Explores: No one avoids the fierce storms of life, but everyone can be prepared for them.

- a. Storms usually come suddenly, so you need to prepare in advance.
  - b. Storms usually vary in strength, but they always have some impact.
  - c. Surviving one storm does not mean you can survive the next one.
5. The Response Jesus Explains: There is either relief or regret after every storm.
    - a. It is a tragedy when people know the truth of God and choose not to live it out.
    - b. It is a tragedy when people do not know the truth of God and cannot live it out.
  6. The Result Jesus Expects: No one wants to go through a storm, but sometimes storms produce good along with the destruction.
    - a. There is proof. Anything built upon God's truth will stand through every test.
    - b. There is pain. Anything built without God's truth will stand only until the right test comes.
    - c. There is possibility. Anytime collapse comes into your life, it is an opportunity to change the foundation.

Jesus tells us that storms will come. Jesus tells us that storms will shake our lives. Jesus tells us that if we build our lives upon Him and His truth we will survive the storms. The question here is not whether we will be shaken by the storms; the key is whether we have the strong foundation to survive the storms. Only in Jesus can we survive every storm.