



September 14, 2025

Fred Naff

Matthew 7:24-29

Introduction

This week's message concludes the Sermon on the Mount with Jesus' powerful parable about two builders. Fred Naff challenges us to examine what we're truly building our lives upon. The message emphasizes that simply listening to Jesus' teachings isn't enough—we must put them into practice. Like a wise architect, Jesus doesn't just diagnose our problems but provides the blueprint for a life that can withstand any storm. The difference between the wise and foolish builder isn't the storms they face, but the foundation they've chosen.

Key Texts: Matthew 7:28-29; Matthew 5:43-45; John 16:33; Luke 13:1-5

Icebreaker

What's something you thought would be solid and reliable but turned out to be less sturdy than expected? (Could be a product, plan, or even a life decision!)

Discussion Questions

1. Fred mentioned that in our postmodern world, some people aren't just building on sand—they're "building in the air" because they can't even agree on what truth is. How do you see this playing out in conversations about right and wrong today?
2. **Read Matthew 7:28-29 together.** People were amazed that Jesus taught "with authority." What's the difference between someone sharing opinions versus speaking with true authority? How does this challenge how you approach Jesus' teachings?

3. **Read the parable in Matthew 7:24-27 together.** Both builders faced the same storms. What does this teach us about the nature of problems in life? How does this counter the idea that following Jesus means having fewer troubles?
4. Fred shared the Steve Farrar quote: "Your walk with God is measured by the small decisions you make in your heart when you're all alone and no one is listening." What are some of those "small decisions" in your daily life where you're tempted to compromise?
5. **Read John 16:33 together.** Jesus promises trouble but also victory. How can both be true? How does this perspective change how you approach current challenges?
6. Many people respect Jesus as a good teacher but don't believe He is God. Fred argues this is like building on sand. Why is Jesus' identity as God crucial to the foundation He provides? How does this impact how seriously you take His words?

Key Takeaways

- Listening to Jesus' words without practicing them is like building on sand
- Both wise and foolish builders face the same storms—the difference is their foundation
- Jesus speaks with unique authority because of who He is, not just what He knows
- Small, private decisions reveal what we're truly building our lives upon
- Following Jesus means more troubles in some ways, but with God's strength to face them
- There is absolute truth, and Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life

Notes