

The Blessings of Obedience

Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-24

To close the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus drives home a sobering reality. He tells the parable of a wise man, who safely endures the worst that life can bring, and a foolish man, whose entire world collapses around him. What is the only difference between the two? Both have heard God's word, but only the wise man has put it into practice.

God's Word does us no good until we actively, intentionally obey it.

Listen to how many times Jesus emphasizes the importance and the great blessings of simply keeping His commands:

- As we make disciples, what are we to teach them? To live as Jesus taught (Matthew 28:20).
- Those who obey His commands will never die (John 8:51-52).
- Obedience is proof of our love for Jesus (John 14:15).
- Those who keep Jesus' commands share in the intimate, unbroken love of Father and Son (John 14:21; 15:10).
- Wouldn't you love to be a warm, personal friend of Jesus Christ? Do what He says (John 15:14)!
- Do you want to enjoy the full assurance that you personally know God and live in relationship with Him day by day? Live as He teaches (1 John 2:3-4).
- Do you want God's love to live in you in all its fullness and beauty? Do you want to walk constantly in Him? Live as Jesus taught. Live as Jesus lived (1 John 2:5-6).
- His commands are not a burden. They are a gift of His tender love for us. They are easy and joyful (Matthew 11:28-30; 1 John 5:3).

Listen & Sing: **I Build My Life on You**

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