

STRENGTH IN THE STORM

Matthew 7:24-29

How are you handling the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

This passage takes place at the close of the most famous sermon in history, “The Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). Jesus has said a lot and now ends his message with this teaching.

Read Matthew 7:24-29. Explain what is happening in this parable.

(24, 26) Describe the two builders and the two houses. What do the “rock” and “sand” represent?

(25, 27) Describe the two storms and the two effects on the houses.

Is it enough just to hear the words of Jesus? What is the key to building a strong life that can even withstand the storms of life? What is Jesus promising those who are willing to live out his words?

Read James 1:22. How do we “deceive” ourselves when we hear but not act?

How does this passage address the popular belief that following Jesus Christ is a trouble-free life without storms?

How would you describe the “foundation” of your life right now? If you really examine your life, what foundation do you depend on the most? (my smarts, my abilities, my work, my resources, my relationships, my faith, etc.) What should you depend on the most?

What can you do to strengthen your spiritual foundation?

To be a wise builder at this point in your life, do you need to learn more or practice what you already know?

(28-29) How do the people respond to Jesus’ teaching? How can Jesus have more “authority” over your life?

What are the implications for relating UP (God), IN (Church), and OUT (World)?

How can this group pray for you and our church this week?