

The Choice is Yours....

Sometimes when you're hungry, you grab a candy bar. A candy bar now and then isn't going to hurt you, and let's face it: we all love candy, don't we? Other times when we go for a snack, we reach for something salty. Chips, pretzels, or Cheese Puffs, they all satisfy when you've got the urge for something salty. But if all we ever eat is sugar and salt, what's going to happen? We're going to get out of shape. We won't have the energy we want or need to play like we should, and our body won't have the good stuff it needs to be strong and healthy.

Thankfully, God has given us some snacks that are full of good stuff. He's given us things that grow in nature that are not only good for you, but just as sweet as candy. He's given us big snacks like bananas, apples, and oranges. He's given us small snacks like strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and grapes. He's even given us exotic snacks like pineapple, kiwi, pomegranates, and something called ugli fruit. If we build our health on junk food, we'll have a junk body. But if we build our bodies with good foods like fruit, we'll be healthy and strong.

The same can be said for our spiritual health. Jesus told us we have a choice to build our lives on a shaky foundation - one built on man-made thinking and philosophies - or on the solid ground that is Jesus. He told his followers another parable, this one was to explain what it meant to obey Him. It's called the Wise Man and the Foolish Man. You may remember the song...

Anyways, He explained that when we hear His words and do what they say we are like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. An example of hearing God's words and doing what they say is like hearing that we need to love our neighbor like we love ourselves. (Which by the way was last week's message) Then the next day you notice that one of the kids at school is crying and upset on the playground and kids are laughing and making fun of them. Instead of joining in, you go over and comfort them and play with them. You do what you learned.

When you obey what you learn in the Bible, God calls you wise! To be wise or have wisdom is not how smart we are but more what we do that's important. When we obey God and listen to him that makes us wise. Of course being wise is a gift from God and we can ask for it when we pray.

Getting back to the story. Jesus said that the wise man built his house on the rock. When the rain came down and the streams rose, and the winds blew and

beat against the house; it didn't fall down because it had a strong thing to stand on (the rock).

The people that hear God's words and don't practice them are like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. So, if you learned to love your neighbor as yourself and you didn't do anything to help the kid that was being made fun of on the playground, God calls you foolish.

What do you think happened to the house that was built on the sand? Think about what happens when you build a sand castle. Is the sand castle strong? What would happen if it rained and a big wind came? Just like a sand castle, a house can't be built on sand or it comes crashing down.

Can you build a house over sand? Or in a swamp? Or over mud? Sure you can. You can lay a foundation, build the walls, make a roof, and fill it with all sorts of nice things. But that house is not going to stand for a long time. Wind and rain and erosion are going to destroy that house from the bottom up, and it will eventually crumble.

Houses are not built on shaky ground. Wise builders know they have to dig down and set houses and buildings on a firm foundation. If a house has a solid foundation, it will take a lot more than wind and rain to destroy it. That, Jesus says, is why we need to build our lives on Jesus. Jesus is the firm foundation. He is our God, our Creator, who was and is and is to come. We can build our lives on Jesus knowing that he never changes, and he will always be there for us. He will help us through the storms of life, and he will keep us standing strong.

Jesus must have known the world would become the crazy place it is now. Everywhere you turn you see celebrities, doctors, and so-called experts who want to give you their solution to life's troubles. You need more money. You need to believe in yourself. You need to send money to buy this book and it will solve all your problems. And people are buying into these solutions because they want a quick fix. They want something that will solve all their problems overnight and make them happy. The problem is we are a fallen people, and that's not a problem that's going away. As long as we live on Earth, we will struggle with sin and selfishness. We will struggle with temptations, and we will deal with the consequences of sin, sickness and death. There's no quick fix for us. At least, there's nothing that will fix us once and for all. We need a firm foundation for today, for tomorrow, and for ten years from now. We need Jesus.

If you start building your life on Jesus now, the firm foundation will help you hold fast through anything life throws at you. God will be there to help you stand up to peer pressure in elementary school and in high school. He will help you navigate

the tough choices you make about your future. He will be there to comfort you when you lose a loved one and your close friends move away. When you move, when sickness changes your life, when things fall apart, you will stand strong, rooted in a firm foundation that can never be shaken. Jesus knows the struggles we face as humans. He was human himself, and He felt every pain and joy that we will ever feel. Jesus died so He could give us His Holy Spirit to be with us in all life's ups and downs. Why would anyone build their life on something other than the real thing? Don't build a life on junk food and phony ideas. Set your life on a firm foundation. Make Jesus the foundation for your life, and you will always stand strong!

So think, would you rather be foolish or wise? If you build your life on obeying God that's like building your life on the rock. We will be strong when situations around us are hard to handle. Yet if you choose to be foolish, you will not have any support and the world will feel like it's crashing down around you. So choose wisely....



Everyone who HEARS
these WORDS



mine
DOES
them

Will be like a wise
man who
built his house
on the

ROCK.

MATTHEW 7:24

(237)

(7)

The Wise & Foolish Builders Word Search



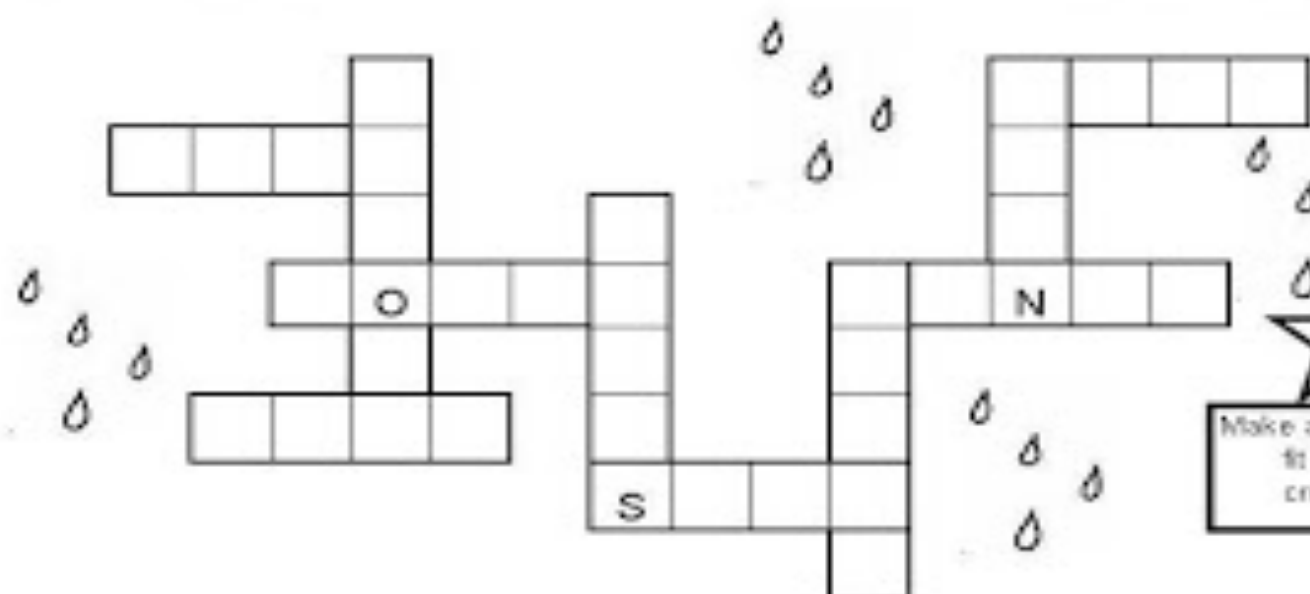
BiblePuzzles.org.uk

BUILT
DEEP
FELL
FLOODS
FOOLISH
FOUNDATION
HEARS
HOUSE
MAN

PARABLE
RAIN
ROCK
SAND
STOOD
STREAM
WIND
WISE
WORDS



The House on the Rock



Make all the words fit into this crossword



Words
Wise
House
Rock
Rain
Floods
Winds
Fool
Sand
Jesus



Name:

Date:

Jesus is My Firm Foundation

Draw a house on the rock. Write three things on the rock that could help you to build a strong foundation in Jesus!

