Passage Guide
Will My Life Survive the Storm?| Week 10
Matthew 7:24-29 (Primary Passage)
November 15th, 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY
Jesus makes it clear that hearing His words is not enough; you must put them into practice. He compares those who obey His teaching to a wise man who builds his house on a solid rock, able to withstand the storms of life. Those who hear His words but refuse to obey are like a foolish man who builds on sand, leaving their lives without a firm foundation. Jesus teaches with complete authority, and each person must decide whether they will follow Him or reject Him. Your response to Jesus will determine whether your life is built to stand or is headed for a great fall.

MAIN POINTS
1. Either Jesus Has All Authority or None. Jesus is not simply a good teacher offering helpful advice; He is the Son of God who speaks with divine authority. You cannot accept the parts of Jesus' teaching you like while ignoring the parts you don't. Your response to His Word reveals what you believe about Him. (Matthew 28:18; John 14:6; Colossians 1:15–18)

2. Either You Will Do What Jesus Says or You Won't. Hearing God's Word is important, but hearing without obedience is self-deception. Genuine faith produces a life of obedience, not just knowledge of Scripture. Obedience doesn't earn your salvation; it is evidence of a heart that has been changed by God's grace. (James 1:22–25; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:8–10)

3. Either Your Life Will Stand Through Anything or Lose Everything. Storms will come into every person's life, regardless of how strong their foundation appears. A life built on Jesus and His Word has a foundation that will stand through life's trials. A life built on anything other than Christ will ultimately fail, especially when facing God's final judgment. **(**Psalm 18:2; 1 Corinthians 3:11–15; 1 John 2:17)

Big Idea: Jesus demands a choice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. What does Jesus mean when He says that the wise person hears His words and puts them into practice? Why is obedience an essential part of genuine faith? *Possible Answer:* Genuine faith is more than knowing what Jesus says or agreeing with His teaching. When God changes your heart, your life begins to reflect that change through obedience. You are saved by grace through faith, but genuine faith produces good works. (James 2:17; Ephesians 2:8–10)

2. What does this passage teach you about Jesus' authority, and why can't you treat His words as optional? *Possible Answer:* Jesus speaks with the authority of God because He is the Son of God. He is not simply one voice among many; He is Lord. You must either recognize His authority and follow Him or reject His rightful place in your life. (Matthew 28:18; John 14:6; Philippians 2:9–11)

3. Is there an area of your life where you know what Jesus says but have been slow or unwilling to obey? What is keeping you from taking that step? *Possible Answer:* I may be holding on to my rights, control, comfort, or a personal preference instead of trusting Jesus. I need to surrender that area to Him and take the next step of obedience. (James 1:22; Luke 9:23)

4. When the storms of life come, what do you tend to rely on most: Jesus, your own strength, your circumstances, or something else? *Possible Answer:* I often try to handle things in my own strength. I need to trust God's promises, depend on His Word, and remember that my security is found in Christ, not in my circumstances. (Proverbs 3:5–6; Isaiah 26:3–4)

5. If someone looked at your everyday life, would they see someone who is simply familiar with Jesus' teachings or someone who is actively living them out? What needs to change? *Possible Answer:* I may know more Scripture than I actually practice. I need to become more intentional about applying God's Word in my relationships, decisions, attitudes, and daily choices. (John 13:17; Colossians 3:17)

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus leaves no middle ground. You will either build your life on Him or build it on something else. You cannot save yourself through good behavior, religious activity, or simply knowing what the Bible says. Salvation comes through God's grace when you repent of your sin and place your faith in Jesus Christ, who died for your sins and rose again.

If you have never trusted Jesus: Acknowledge your sin, ask Jesus to forgive you, and believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Don't settle for simply knowing about Jesus. Surrender your life to Him and build your future on the only foundation that will last. If you are already a believer: Don't become comfortable simply hearing God's Word. Continually repent of areas where you have been disobedient, trust God's grace, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you live out what Jesus teaches. Let your obedience demonstrate that your life is firmly built on Christ

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Jesus Has All Authority
Key Verse: "For he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." (Matthew 7:29)
Reflection: Jesus is not simply a good teacher whose advice you can choose to follow or ignore. He is the Son of God, and His Word carries complete authority over your life. When you recognize who Jesus truly is, your response should be to trust Him, surrender to Him, and follow His teaching.
Application Question: Is there an area of your life where you struggle to give Jesus complete authority? *Possible Answer:* I sometimes want to make my own decisions without considering what Jesus teaches. I need to surrender my preferences and trust that His ways are always best.
Prayer Response: Lord Jesus, help me recognize Your authority in every area of my life. Teach me to trust Your Word and follow You faithfully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Tuesday – Hearing Isn't Enough
Key Verse: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)
Reflection: You can attend church, read your Bible, and listen to sermons without allowing God's Word to change your life. Jesus calls you to do more than simply hear His teaching; He calls you to put it into practice. Genuine faith produces a life of obedience because your heart has been changed by God's grace.
Application Question: What is one thing God has been teaching you that you need to put into practice? *Possible Answer:* I know I need to be more patient and forgiving toward others. Rather than simply agreeing with God's Word, I need to demonstrate it through my actions.
Prayer Response: Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times I have heard Your Word without obeying it. Help me put what I learn into practice and allow Your truth to shape my daily life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Wednesday – Build Your Life on the Rock
Key Verse: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 (ESV)
Reflection: A strong life begins with a strong foundation. Jesus teaches that the wisest thing you can do is build your life on Him and His Word. When your priorities, decisions, relationships, and values are shaped by Christ, you are building a foundation that will last.
Application Question: What is one practical way you can build a stronger foundation in Christ this week? *Possible Answer:* I can become more intentional about spending time in God's Word and applying it to my decisions. I want my daily choices to reflect my faith in Jesus.
Prayer Response: Lord, help me build every part of my life on You. Give me the desire to know Your Word, trust Your promises, and follow Your direction each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thursday – Stand Firm Through the Storms
Key Verse: "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." (Matthew 7:25)
Reflection: Storms are a part of life, and following Jesus does not mean you will never experience difficulties. However, when your life is built on Christ, you have a foundation that circumstances cannot destroy. You can face uncertainty, hardship, and disappointment with confidence because your hope is in Jesus, not in the things of this world.
Application Question: What challenge are you facing right now where you need to trust Jesus rather than rely on your own strength? *Possible Answer:* I am facing uncertainty about something I cannot control. Instead of allowing worry to take over, I need to trust God's promises and depend on His strength.
Prayer Response: Father, thank You for being my Rock and my security. When life's storms come, help me stand firm in my faith and trust You even when I cannot see what lies ahead. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Friday – Choose the Foundation That Lasts
Key Verse: "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:27 (ESV)
Reflection: Jesus makes it clear that there are only two foundations on which you can build your life: the solid rock or the shifting sand. You cannot build your life around the things of this world and expect them to provide lasting security. Your response to Jesus matters, and the choice you make today has eternal significance. Choose to repent, believe, and follow Him.
Application Question: If someone looked at your life, would they see that Jesus is your foundation? What is one change you need to make? *Possible Answer:* I want my life to reflect more than just knowing about Jesus. I need to be more intentional about obeying His Word and making Him the center of my decisions.
Prayer Response: Lord Jesus, I choose to build my life on You. Forgive me for the times I have trusted other things more than You. Help me walk in obedience, remain faithful, and live in a way that brings glory to Your name. In Your Name, Amen.