BE A WISE BUILDER

Matthew 7:13–29

Key Verse: 7:24

1. What is Jesus’ first contrast? (13,14) What do you think he means by entering through the wide gate and traveling on the broad road, versus entering through the small gate and traveling on the narrow road? (16:24,25; cf. Jn10:9)
2. What is Jesus’ second contrast? (15–20) How does he describe false prophets? (15b) Why do we need to watch out for them? (Ro16:18; 2Pe2:1–3) How can we recognize who speaks for God? (16a,20) What is this “good fruit”? (17,18; Eph5:9; Col1:10; Gal5:22–23) What does Jesus warn, and why? (19; cf. 3:10)
3. What is Jesus’ third contrast? (21–23) What does it mean to only call him, “Lord, Lord”? What does it mean to “do” the heavenly Father’s will? (26:39)
4. What is Jesus’ fourth contrast? (24–27) What is hard about building a house on rock, and how is it easier to build on sand? How do two such houses look the same? Why is one builder wise and the other foolish? What do the rain, streams and wind represent? How can we have a rock solid spiritual foundation for our life and ministry? (1Co3:10–15)
5. Read verse 24. Review some of the words of Jesus we should not just hear but put into practice: 5:23,24; 5:28–30; 5:32; 5:34–37; 5:39–42; 5:44; 6:1; 6:3,4; 6:6; 6:9–13; 6:14,15; 6:17,18; 6:19,20; 6:33,34; 7:1; 7:6; 7:7; 7:12. Which one(s) are especially important to you right now?
6. Why were the crowds amazed at Jesus’ teaching? (28,29) What does his authority mean to us? (9:6,8; 10:1)