



Matthew 7 New International Version

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were **amazed** at his teaching, ²⁹because he taught as one who had **authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.

“He stood up to read, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:16-19



HABITS OF A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN

Ego says: Once everything falls into place, I will find peace.

Jesus says: Find peace, and everything will fall into place.

Jesus **INSPIRED** and **IRRITATED** his students

“The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.” **Mark 11:18**

“If you believe what you like in the Gospel and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.” St. Augustine

Jesus taught with **GRACE** and **TRUTH**

Grace without truth is **HYPOCRISY**

Truth without grace is **BRUTALITY**

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” John 8:7

“When there is something to blame, there is no growth.”

Jesus was painfully **PRACTICAL** and **PERSONAL**

“Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away. Matt. 22:21

LIVING WORD

It may surprise you to know that Jesus was a teacher. Of the 90 times Jesus was addressed directly in the gospels, 60 times he was called **Teacher**. This was the word the multitudes used. This was how the disciples referred to him. Jesus said, “*You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am*” (John 13:13). When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, he said, “*We know that you are a teacher who has come from God*” (Jn 3:2).

History has echoed the truth of that verdict. Scottish theologian James Stuart said, “The teaching of Jesus has had a power and an effect with which the influence of no other teacher can even for a moment be compared.” When Jesus had finished giving the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew tells us the crowds were so amazed at his teaching because “he taught as one having authority, not as the teachers of the law” (Matthew 7:29). The rabbis quoted each other, but Jesus spoke with authority.

Was Jesus a teacher and did he teach well? Consider his final words, his last instructions, his ultimate command as given to us in the King James Version: “Go ye into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19 KJV). His final command was a teaching command.

How well did it work? Look around you. Two thousand years have passed and today across the world over two billion people bear his name. Christianity has spread from Jerusalem to every corner of the globe. At this very moment multiplied thousands of missionaries are doing what Jesus said to do: teaching all nations. If the success of the students is the measure of the teacher, then no teacher was ever so successful as the one and only Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

People protect what they love?

How can they protect what they don't understand?

The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to **kill him**, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. **Mark 11:18**

“Jesus asked the disciples, “Don't you have any faith?” But they were frightened and amazed. They said to each other, “**Who is this?**” Luke 8:25

If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your **coat**, do not withhold your shirt from them. Luke 6:29

Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Luke 6:30

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17