

TFTD 23.10. Sat March 4th

Matt 7.14-29

Build on the Rock



Jesus said, Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. Matthew 7.24

“Build on the Rock,” we sang cheerfully when we were kids:

Build on the Rock, the Rock that ever stands.

Build on the Rock, and not upon the sands.

You need not fear the storm, or the earthquake

SHOCK! —

You’re safe for evermore if you build on the Rock.

With actions, of course — and a great shout at the

earthquake shock.

The reality is much more frightening, as we've seen from the tragic pictures of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Choices matter — and choices have consequences.

You can allow yourself to be swept along with the crowd, taking the easy options — or you can seek out the narrow gate, the path less travelled. One way leads to life, the other to death. It's that simple.

But how do we know which is the right way (or the right foundation)? Not every guide is a good one — some are false prophets, deceptive guides who will take your money and leave you up a creek without a paddle. The key, says Jesus, is to look for congruence between words and actions — not just talking the talk but walking the walk.

And that's the key to real discipleship too. Listening to

Jesus' teaching is a good start — stopping, paying attention, letting his words sink in. But that's not enough. Listening needs to lead to action: words need to bear fruit in deeds.

Jesus is issuing a clarion-call to the crowds of eager listeners, a call to be part of God's Kingdom, an invitation to make it start happening here "on earth as it is in heaven". He needs men and women — you and me — to help him build God's future in the here and now, to build something that will last. But for that to happen, Jesus needs disciples who do more than listen — who are prepared to let him reach down to the authentic core of their being, to transform their lives from the inside out.

As we read on through Matthew's Gospel, the cost of discipleship becomes even clearer — until by the end, even the twelve disciples fall away and Jesus is left alone to carry out his Father's will and create a rock-solid foundation for the Kingdom.

Lord Jesus, I want to be your disciple — but it's so easy to lose the way.

Give me strength and courage to build my life on the rock. Amen.

