

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals

“The Wise and the Foolish Builders”

Matthew 7:24-29

July 5-6, 2014

For Starters

- Where do most people go for answers today about “life’s questions” (e.g. marriage, parenting, finances, etc.)?
- Where does the world say we should go for answers to living life? How are these messages portrayed in politics, media, and entertainment?
- In your life (home, work, school, church, family, etc.), where do you struggle to live according to the world’s wisdom rather than Jesus’ wisdom?

Digging In

In Jesus’ Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders he addressed three different groups of people who were listening to his teaching. Consider each group and then reflect on the questions below.

- **The Disciples:** people who believed Jesus was the Messiah and the only hope for being right with God. (Read Matthew 7:24)
- **The Crowd:** people that observed something special about Jesus and who were impressed with him but had not committed to following him. (Read Mark 8:34)
- **The Religious Leaders:** people that were very knowledgeable of religious matters and lived by a strict code of ethics. (Read Matthew 5:20)
 1. What do you believe should be each group’s response to Jesus’ parable?
 2. What barriers do you think each group faced that kept them from living as Jesus taught?
 3. With which one of these groups can you most identify? Why?

Bringing it Home

Wise Living

Following Jesus means more than just “hearing” and accepting the gospel. It means putting the gospel “into practice”... the good news in full measure—the gospel of the kingdom! It means we act on the gospel and allow Jesus to call the shots and be the boss of our lives. Read the following passage:

Read James 3:13-18

- Where do you face the challenge of choosing between wisdom of the world and Jesus’ wisdom?
- How do we allow the wisdom of Christ and His spirit to shape our lives and decisions?
- What are some examples of how you and your family can engage in life from the perspective of Jesus’ wise way of Kingdom living verses passively following the ways of the culture around you?

Digging Deeper

Pray that God would help us understand Jesus’ wisdom in scripture and empower us through his spirit to live out the truth of the gospel as we embrace Jesus’ Kingdom plan for our lives.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org.