



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## BUILD ON THE ROCK... ARE YOU A WISE OR FOOLISH BUILDER?

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 7:24-29*  
 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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. And everyone who hears these

words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 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." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Jesus wraps up His gripping Sermon on the Mount with the profound truth that His hearers' earthly for-

tunes and eternal destiny depended completely on how they responded to Him. They had heard His teachings, and now they would choose to either obey or disobey. They could not remain neutral. He did not want them to misunderstand the importance of their next move. He hadn't just giving them great moral and motivational information. He had revealed to them how God desired them to live. Whether or not they embraced His teachings was as crucial to their well-being as the foundation of a building is to the strength and stability of the entire structure. In the same way, the foundation of our lives not only determines our stability in this life, but also our fate in eternity.

In the illustration, both buildings are identical except for the small, yet critical detail that they are built on different foundations. In the process of time, both houses are exposed to the same cataclysmic event: they must weather a devastating storm. Strong winds blow. Flood waters rise. And by the time the dust settles (or the water recedes); only one house is standing while the other has suffered a catastrophic failure. One survives. The other is obliterated. The buildings' foundations determined their outcome.

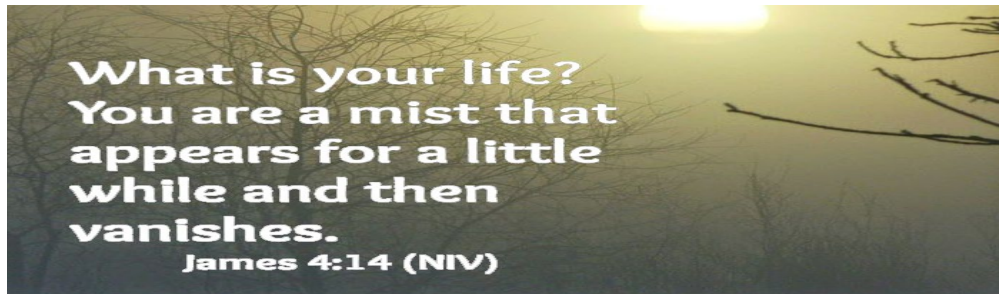
Notice that both builders heard the teachings of Jesus, but only one obeyed. The one who obeyed was a wise builder who built on the solid foundation of Christ Himself. The other who ignored them was a foolish builder who chose to build on the unstable foundation of whatever personal or societal philosophy met his fancy. Just like Jesus' audience that day, every one of us is building our life day by day through the choices we make and the actions we take. Either we obey Christ, or we disregard Him. While all of us hope our lives will endure the test of time and eternity (especially on that day when we must give an account of ourselves to God), there is only one guaranteed position of security, and that is in Christ. No amount of hopefulness or positive thinking will sustain us in the day of ultimate adversity. Only a faith-filled, total dependence on Jesus will provide a safe footing.

So ... on which foundation are you building? Are you a wise or foolish builder?

God bless you,

Pastor James

## DO NOT BE DISTRACTED BY THE TEMPORARY.



What is your life?  
 You are a mist that  
 appears for a little  
 while and then  
 vanishes.

James 4:14 (NIV)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p><b>CORPORATE PRAYER</b> TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p><b>May 25</b> Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>EVENING SERVICES</b> 1st &amp; 3rd SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p><b>Jun 6 &amp; Jun 20</b> will be in-person at church.</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p><b>May 30</b> In-person service &amp; livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p><b>GROWTH GROUPS</b> BEGIN IN JUNE @ 7 PM</p> <p>Growth Groups will be in-person and begin in June.  Sign up at the information center or online to attend a group convenient to you.</p>	<p><b>YOUTH GROUP</b> FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p><b>May 28</b> Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL KIDZONE</b> SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p><b>May 30</b> Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Covid Guidelines for church will be posted on our website later this week.
- In-person Growth Groups begin in June! Please sign up at the Information Center at church or online to attend a group convenient to you.
- Beginning in June our Evening Services will be in-person at church on the First and Third Sundays for now.
- The 2021 Church Directory will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included, please visit our website, click the ABOUT button at the top of the page. **May 31st is the last day** you may submit information.
- Bible reading plans for 2021 are available at the Information Table and on our website. Also read Jimmie VanSant's daily blog.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

### QUICK TIPS

**Two ways to give your offering.** Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!