

Today is the day that the Lord has made, and we will rejoice and be glad! We started this series looking at problem that we all have...

**We over exaggerate yesterday. We overestimate tomorrow.
We underestimate today. -John Maxell "Today Matters"**

But we concluded in *Week One* of this series that Today Matters!

2023 THEME "Today is the Day!"

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 NLT As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. 2 For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

In *Week Two* talked about Today's To-Do List as seen in Hebrews 3.

- 1) Hebrew 3:7 – Today, hear the voice of God.
- 2) Hebrew 3:8 - When you hear the voice of God, do not harden your hearts.
- 3) Hebrew 3:12 - Don't have an evil heart of unbelief and turn away from the living God.
- 4) Hebrews 3:13 - Encourage one another today.

Last Sunday, week three, we looked at the story of the crippled man being healed outside gate beautiful in Acts 3. What seemed to be "Just Another Normal Day," turned out to be his miracle day of healing!

We saw that we should live with EXPECTATION, because Today Could Be Your Day!

TODAY IS SUNDAY, JANUARY TWENTY NINTH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE
AND TODAY IS MY DAY!

Two Foundations

Today our BC Kids introduced the story of foundations and the importance of making wise choices. It was Jesus' story about two men and the two houses they built.

- One was a wise man who built his house on a **rock**-solid foundation.
- The other was a foolish man who built his house upon a **sandy** foundation.

Matthew 7:24-27 "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. 25 The 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. 26 But 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. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

What set the wise man apart from the foolish man?

Matthew 7:24"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice (NKJ does them) (acts upon them) **is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

Matthew 7:26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice (NKJ does not do them) **is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.**

Today, We Have a Decision to Make

- 1) **To hear and know what Jesus' Word says only.**
- 2) **To hear and know what Jesus' Word says and do it.**

This is one of the Wise Choices our BC Kids were talking about. Today Obey!

What is it that Jesus has commanded us to do?

Our text today in Matthew 7 is actually the conclusion of a sermon that was started in Matthew 5 (the Sermon on the Mount) in which Jesus laid out several commandments that should be obeyed. (Matthew 5:1 through Matthew 7:12)

- These are only a few of Jesus' commands. There are many more.
- If you have been a Christian for a long time, you have probably heard all of Jesus' commandments at one time or another.

But the question we must all ask ourselves is "Have I heard only, or have I heard and obeyed?"

The choice is yours. If you keep His commands, you will be wise like a man who built his house on the rock. Reading through the Bible with us in 2023 is good, you will hear God's Word, but will you obey?

Today's Next Step: In 2023, I will join the Believers Church Family and read my Bible through in One Year. www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/60

Today's Next Step: Not only will I read and hear the Word of God, but I will also obey and do what God's Word is telling me to do.

Jesus' Commandments Lead to Life!

Matthew 7:21-23 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one **who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Obeying Jesus is not intended to make your life miserable and burden you with laws of legalism. God wants the best for your life and obeying His commands will help His plan be fulfilled for you.

Abundant Life: **John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Eternal Life: **John 12:49-50** For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

John 15:14 & 17 You are my friends if you do what I command. What is our responsibility in this relationship with Jesus? Obey, Today Obey. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

1 **John 5:2-3** This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, His commands are life giving!

The Aftermath of the Storm

The Rock Foundation **Matthew 7:25** The 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.

The Sand Foundation **Matthew 7:27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Where will you be when the storm hits your life? Will your house be on the rock or on the sand?

- It's not a matter of **if a storm comes**, but **when the storm comes**.
 - Life is full of storms. Christians are in error if they teach that they will be spared of having to weather through one.
 - In this case, it was the same storm that hit both houses.
 - Jesus had already said in **Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.**
 - **John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

If your house is built upon the rock, it will stand in any type of storm!

Psalms 34:19

The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;

How we survive in the storm is determined long before we find ourselves in one.

How we weather the storm is determined each and every day. Today Matters, so let's not only hear the words of Jesus, let's do what Jesus says to do. Today Obey!

Acts of obedience will build a durable foundation.

We need to not only be hearers of the word, but doers also.

Today's Next Step: I, Pastor Scott, challenge you to read your Bible and when you read something you are supposed to do, stop and do what it says, then read again.

Salvation Call

Example: The difference in hearing only and hearing and acting is so clearly seen in **our salvation**.

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.