

**KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday Worship, June 9, 2024**  
**Sermon Notes from Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros**  
**Slippery Slopes or Solid Structures?**  
**Scripture: Matthew 7:24-28**

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“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching.

**Sermon NOTES**

Remember the SONG: “The wise man built his house upon the rock...

(next verse: The foolish man built his house upon the sand...)

rains came down, floods came up...

(end of song - is great: “Splat!”)

Initial Questions - Does this song make us uncomfortable in our day and age - of floods, fires and catastrophes?

How does our own time and context influence our hearing/understanding of the Bible?

SAND CASTLES - remember building at the beach? FUN, but impermanent! Lasting only until tides wash away.

Reflect on some of the JOY in creating - even something temporary...

Name something you have created just for fun...

Reflect on the joy in letting go, (even knocking down)

Name something you may need to dismantle, let go...

STONE CASTLES - think of the great cathedrals in Europe... that have stood the test of time!

Can you name some of them?

What do you feel in the presence of something that has been around for generations?

Have you ever been part of something that you know will outlast us all?  
something stronger than the storms of life?

Our passage today comes right after Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:  
which is found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 & 7!

Go back and review the great lessons he shared about prayer, forgiveness, not  
judging, poor being blessed, hungry being filled, grieving turning to joy.

From these, choose a VALUABLE guideline that has informed YOUR Christian  
Life.

At the END of these powerful Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells this concluding  
wise/foolish parable saying,

“The person who hears these teachings *and does them*, puts them into practice,  
is like a wise man who builds his house upon the rock.

And so when the rains fall and floods come and winds blow and beat against that  
house, it will not fall. Why? Because its foundation is on the rock.

On the other hand, the person who hears these words and teachings and  
does *not* do them is like the foolish one building a house upon the sand.

And so when the rains fall and floods come and winds blow and beat on that  
house, it will fall. Why? Because its foundation is on the sand.”

WHICH of these builders heard Jesus' teachings? (First? Second? BOTH?  
Neither?)

The difference here was not that one man came and listened to Jesus and the  
other one stayed at home that day ... or went to the beach to build sandcastles...

Merely hearing the word is not enough... what we DO with what we know or  
believe or trust - is not only important, but might be the difference between being  
part of something solid that can outlast all of us - or something fleeting and  
temporary...

### **Questions for us today:**

What are some of the teachings that we've heard in sermon after sermon – or  
Sunday school lesson – or Bible study...?

AND HOW are you actualizing those truths, and living your faith in OUR time and  
in OUR place?

Similarly, can we honestly look in the mirror to discover the slippery slopes and  
sand castles we create when we nod and give a thumbs up – and say, nice

sermon Jesus, but it makes no difference in how we make our choices or treat our neighbor... or spend our money ... or fill our calendar...

Concluding example: Another great story about building materials, trial and error, and ultimately finding safety together is: \_\_\_\_\_

WE can find purpose and strength and encouragement for ALL the ways we can be HEARERS of the word – and not stop there... but find all the creative ways to put the word into action...

Make a plan for ONE action that you will do in the coming week - to take a teaching or example Jesus gave us... and put it into action.

(Then make a plan to go build a fun sand structure at the beach sometime this summer!)