

# CONVERSION: A study of the Sermon on the Mount

Jesus changes everything for the one who believes to live in Him.

**INTRO** In this series we are walking through the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. **CONVERSION** means we look and listen to the One who is our Lord, remember His righteousness He has put on us in salvation, and convert our lives by faith to walk in obedience with Him. Today's topic is no exception. I implore you to listen today to all that will be said.

## CONVERSION: Life Foundation – Obedience to God's Word

Matthew 7:24-27

**MPS:** Jesus is the Rock that holds life to stand when we walk by the Spirit in obedience to God's Word.

**OBJ** Every person can build their life on Jesus Christ by \_?\_ ?.

**READ** Matthew 7:24–27

<sup>24</sup>“Everyone then who **hears** these words of mine **and does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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.” **Matt 7:24-27**

**ILLUS** We went to a July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks display this summer. The popularity of firework proves the universality of the redneck gene, “awe and wonder” at things exploding. It's pretty impressive and there are always some throughout that make you go, “well that was a dud!” But every show makes the end the grand finale. We want to end with a bang. And it never fails you hear someone say, “It's the grand finale!” **The “grand finale” is the big ending that a leaves a lasting impression.**

**TRANS** Matthew culminates Jesus' teaching in the sermon on the mount by addressing every hearer of God's Word. Jesus contrasts two kinds of hearers by comparing them to two kinds of builders of a house.

**The first builder builds on the rock.** The rain fell, the floods rose, and the winds beat against the house, but the house did not fall because he built it on the rock. The foundation held the house when the storms blew against it. Jesus says this builder is wise because he built on the rock.

**The second builder built on the sand.** The rain fell, the floods rose, and the wind beat against the house, but unlike the first house, this house fell because it was built on the sand. And the house not only fell but it was completely destroyed. The sand did not hold the house when the storms came. Jesus says this builder was foolish.

Everything about the houses are presented as equal, both in quality and craftsmanship. Both builders are presented as capable because both complete their house. The same kind of storms blow against each house. But there are two completely different outcomes. The first house stands because its foundation is a rock. The second house fell in great fashion, to complete destruction, because it was built on sand. And because of each house's foundation that determined whether the it stood or fell when the storms came, Jesus declares that the builder was either wise in building on the rock or foolish for building on the sand. What seemed equal at first, even to completion of the house and for a time prior to the storm coming, was not equal. Though at first it was not obvious or visible, the two houses were not the same at all because of their foundation. **The foundation you build your “house” on reveals whether you have been wise or foolish and determines whether you will stand or fall when the storms blow.**

**“House” is a metaphor for your life.** Jesus is talking about how you live your life. There are two ways to live. One is wise and the other is foolish. One withstands the storms of life. One falls by the storm, and in a great way. The question you must ask yourself today is this, **“do I want my life to stand or to fall when the storms of life blow?”** Jesus says the one who builds



on rock is wise; the one who builds on sand is foolish. [Only one foundation holds when life's storms blow. Jesus is the rock upon which we build our lives by God's wisdom. He will never fail nor allow us to fall.](#)

**TRANS** [Will you live wise or foolish, build your life on the rock or sand?](#) This is the question we give our time to today.

[Jesus is the Rock that holds life to stand when we walk by the Spirit in obedience to God's Word.](#)

**OBJ** [Two applications to make sure you are building our lives on Jesus, the Rock.](#)

**1. [Every person is building their life on something; build your life on Jesus, the Rock.](#)**

**Every person is "building" a life.** This may seem too elementary to make a point of or to highlight, but in our day it has become increasingly important. We've managed to remove the expectation on our children to grow up while simultaneously dumping the demand to accomplish their greatest feats as children. We're propagating a life that assumes the world is for them, instead of their life being purposed to serve God and make the world a better place.

With constant access to the world, kids think they have to 'create an image that the world loves and celebrates', by 'clicks, likes, views and follows', instead of live a life that reflects the image of the glory of the Creator. We've produced the most anxious, stressed out, "self-proclaimed victimized" generation who are incompetent to make their own PB&J for lunch.

**ILLUS** Living in a van down by the river used to be a joke, considered a waste of life. It's now considered a life goal.

**ILLUS** Adolescence once referred to a period of life that had both a start and an end accompanied with the expectation that 'one grew through adolescence'. We've removed the expectation of growth and made adolescence a point of arrival.

**We live in a generation riddled by anxiety;** not just millennials and Gen Y-ers, but every age alive. Satan rules the world by uncertainty and anxiety. But he has ZERO power to steal the surety of God's power or certainty of God's peace in Jesus.

**Each person is responsible to build your life on the Rock of Jesus Christ by obedience to His Word.** Parents, you are responsible to lead your children to grow and grow up in the Lord. Students and young adults, you are responsible to grow and to grow up in the Lord. [You can build your life by worldly-driven, self-glory but you will end in utter destruction. You can build your life on Jesus and nothing the world throws at you will conquer you.](#)

**"I'm afraid" they say.** Newsflash: We're ALL afraid! We've always been afraid. The old hymn states this for us, "Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt. Fighting and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come." There was once a young man riddled with his fear and anxiety, overwhelmed by life's demands, barely hanging on to his own faith, probably tempted by thoughts of "walking away". To this young man the Apostle Paul wrote,

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,  
<sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Tim 1:6-7*

Fear dis-placed, anxiety, insecurity, and the like are all manifestations of sin's curse and Satan's active work in the world. But these are NOT the final word on life. The one who fuels fear and anxiety does NOT get the last word, and that means his is not the ultimate word for your life. We have the better Word who IS life, Jesus. God gave you life to glorify Him. [This does not mean you will not have anxiety and fear. It means you do not have to be ruled by them. Jesus is the Word of life, the Rock who brings peace when you trust in Him.](#)

[Every person is building their life. Take hold of your life with all God has given you and build it on Jesus.](#)



## 2. What you do in response to God's Word determines what you are building your life on. Obedience to God's Word builds life on Jesus.

Jesus' contrast highlights one issue, obedience to God's Word. The issue is not how one feels or what one thinks about God's Word. Obviously, these matter because this is how one reasons to disregard and disobey. The point is, it doesn't matter why you disobey but that only obedience to God's Word builds your life on God's Wisdom. [Disobedience to God's Word is always unwise and puts your life on a foundation that cannot withstand the storms of life, so that you will be destroyed when they blow.](#)

Two houses can look identical yet be completely different because of their foundation. Many lives look "ok". People look like they are doing great, "perched lips and peace signs" posed against the backdrop of remarkable scenery (or bathroom mirrors). "Living the life" baby, putting the pieces in place, building my followers and showing the world how it is done. [Many lives look 'put together'. And that's exactly what they are, 'put together' with photo shop and apps. But anxiety dominates and defines this generation because they have been 'put together' on a foundation that shifts.](#)

**Pause and let this settle in.** The life you build is NOT determined by what you do with what the world says or does to you, throws at you or against you. Your life does not have to be defined by your failures, and if you let it be defined by your successes they will betray you. Worldly wisdom, worldly power and worldly ways will always fail. It is just a matter of time. Nothing will move Jesus or the one whose life that is built on Him by obedience to His Word. If you build on anything other than the foundation that holds, you are waiting for a life storm to destroy you. [The life you build is determined by what you do with God's Word, whether you obey or disobey.](#)

[The ONLY life that perseveres to withstand any storm is the one built by obedience to Jesus Christ, the Rock of God.](#)

**Obedience to God's Word is NOT to hear and agree, but 'hear and do'.** This is not adherence, but faith-fueled obedience that places your life, the act you take, any situation it is within and the outcome it produces into God's hands. Obedience is not a calculated consideration where you weigh the options and decide whether God's way is best, or where you think about it until you can figure out how to do it. Obedience is a surrendered heart that receives to trust God by obeying His Word in His way at His timing. [WHAT God says to obey is always accompanied by WHEN God says do it; truth always operates by God's perfect timing.](#)

**APPL** There are times when God tells us what to do but we know the timing is not yet right. In these instances it always that opportunities to go ahead and get it over with abound and the difficulty of doing it is lower. The temptation is simply, go ahead and get it done for God. But you know the Spirit is saying, "not yet." Your obedience is as much in the timing of preparation of the "wait" as in the act.

At other times you seek after God, considering your options but unsure what to do. There seems to be no way. Then, God makes clear what you are to do. And you say, "But God, how could that be?" or "Why that way?" or "Not with that person." The way God commands is not a way you've considered OR a way in which you have already dismissed as an option because YOU couldn't see HOW that would work out. But you are not the One working, God is. And God makes ways where there is not way. But He only makes a way where there is not a way by His way, the way of obedience by faith. When God commands by His Word, that is THE moment of obedience unless the Spirit specifically says "not yet". [Obedience encompasses the fullness of God's will for the life of a Christ-follower; faith that motivates to produce \(heart\), actions that fulfill \(hands\) in God's timing \(feet\), and usually after, understanding that explains God's will \(mind\).](#)

**Obedience is the posture of faith in Jesus that demonstrates the surrender of life to Him.** You don't have to agree or even understand WHY, WHAT or WHEN God commands as He does, but you are called to trust for obedience. Any demand you make or any other pre-requisite before you obey, means you are not living by faith but walking by self-wisdom. Very often, understanding God's will does not come until AFTER you have obeyed. And sometimes full understanding



doesn't come at all, but a peace remains that surpasses any internal need or demand for understanding because you are trusting in God. [Trust to rest is the place of life tethered to the Rock that is Jesus Christ.](#)

**Jesus is the rock, the wisdom of God for all of life.** Any other source of wisdom that you listen to is sand, forms disobedience and a life foundation that cannot sustain you when the storms blow. The world will always promise you it's wisdom is wiser. The world always offers wisdom that is easier to understand and easier by convenience and comfort for you because worldly wisdom is self-centeredness. Worldly wisdom may mask as godly but NEVER fully aligns with God's wisdom. [The glory of God's promises are always and only produced by God's power in obedience to God's Word.](#)

*"For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."* **1 Corinthians 1:25**

**Obedience to Jesus' commands anchors life to Him.** When we walk by faith in obedience to Jesus' commands we live by God's wisdom and power. When our lives are built on Jesus; we overcome because He conquered, we prevail because He lives, we stand because He is immovable. You can't build an eternal life on earthly, worldly wisdom. And, you will not withstand the storms by the world's wisdom or power. Obedience to God's Word places the full dependence of your life on Jesus; prepares you for what you know WILL happen even though you likely don't know WHEN it will happen; prepares you for anything that comes, no matter when it arrives. And in a day when it seems "faddishly cool" to walk away from the faith, obedience by faith to Jesus' Word is the only way to have full assurance in God's salvation. [If you want the life Jesus promises you must live in obedience by faith to His Word to receive the wisdom and power Jesus gives.](#)

**APPL** CG is designed to help you live wise and build your life on Jesus the rock. Regular participation provides a host of godly counsel in fellowship with God's people to train in a life of walking by faith. [Connection provides a real source of eternal encouragement to obey Jesus' Word.](#)

**In Jesus' analogy, the SAME storms beat against every house (life).** One stands; the other falls to complete destruction. Storms are inevitable. How they affect your life is optional. Storms are NEVER the issue. The foundation upon which you have built your life IS the critical issue that determines whether you stand or fall, in royal fashion to complete destruction, when the storms come. [Obedience to God's Word builds life on God's wisdom and power, the Rock of Jesus Christ.](#)

[our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#)

[<sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor 1:8-9](#)

[Jesus is the Rock that holds life to stand when we walk by the Spirit in obedience to God's Word.](#)

**What are you building your life?** Build your life on the Rock before that looming storm completely destroys. Trust in Jesus and obey. He will not be moved, and you will stand on Him.

