FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · DAY 2 · GRADES 4-6

Student Lesson

Jesus Teaches Me: Hear and Do! | The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29)

Bible reading: Matthew 5:1-16; 6:9-13, 33; 7:12, 24-29

The Sermon on the Mount and the Wise and Foolish Builders

Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived. When the crowds gathered, He went up on a mountain, sat down the way teachers did in that day, and taught His disciples (Matthew 5:1-2). Matthew 5, 6, and 7 record this lesson, the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus began with the Beatitudes, blessings for the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, and the peacemakers (Matthew 5:3-12). God's blessing looks different from what the world expects. Jesus called His followers salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Salt makes a difference and light shows the way.

Jesus went deeper than outward rules. He taught about anger, purity, honesty, and loving enemies (Matthew 5:21-48). He taught His followers to give and pray humbly, not to be seen by others, and gave a model prayer (Matthew 6:1-13). He said to store up treasures in heaven and "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:19-33). He gave the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) and warned about the wide road and false teachers (Matthew 7:13-23).

Jesus ended with a story about two builders. Both heard. Both built. Both faced the same storm. The difference was the foundation. The wise man built on the rock and his house stood. The foolish man built on the sand and his house fell, "and great was its fall" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus explained the point: the wise man is the one who "hears these sayings of Mine, and does them" (Matthew 7:24). The crowds were astonished, because He taught "as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29). Following Jesus means more than knowing what He said. It means doing it.

> "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."
> Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

Four points to remember

- Jesus is the greatest Teacher. He taught "as one having authority" (Matthew 7:29).
- Jesus teaches us how to live: be salt and light, love others, pray, and seek God first (Matthew 5-7).
- Hearing is not enough. The wise person hears Jesus and does what He says (Matthew 7:24; James 1:22).
- A life built on Jesus' words stands strong when storms come (Matthew 7:25).

Think it through

1. Why were the people astonished at Jesus' teaching?
2. Both builders heard and both faced the storm. What was the only difference?
3. What are some "storms" kids your age face?
4. Which teaching from Matthew 5-7 is hardest for you to do? Why?

Following Jesus this week: I will obey Jesus' words by