

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"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."**

*Matthew 7: 24-25*

You may not have realized that you are in the construction business. You are constructing your life. You are deciding what your life will look like. Life is really a series of daily decisions. Every day we make choices. Everyone does. Some choices have to do with how we will relate to other people. Some have to do with moral choices. We even choose how and what we will think.

The question is, what are your choices based on? What influences the choices you and I make? Jesus would say that our choices are based on the type of base our lives are built upon. He says that a wise person bases his/her life on His teachings. The unwise person, of course, bases his/her life on something other than Jesus. Both types of people experience the same things in life. We all experience difficulties and challenges, and even tragedy. How we deal with these things will depend upon the type of foundation on which our lives are built.

Jesus tells us that if our lives are built upon our relationship with Him, and, especially, on His sound teachings about how to live our lives, that we will be able to withstand everything that life in this world can throw at us. This is wise living! It's not the hearing of God's Word that makes the difference. It's putting it into practice that makes the difference.

Let's say you like to bake, and you wanted to improve how your pie crust turns out, and so you take a baking class. And at the baking class you learn that instead of using butter for your crust, that you should be using lard instead (I don't even know what lard is, or if you should use it in a pie crust, but just go along with me) ... or something like that! And you come home from the baking class and proceed to make a blueberry pie, but you keep using your original recipe for your crust, what good did your class do you? It's not the taking of the class that matters, but the implementation of what you learn that matters.

It's not "going to church" or "reading the Bible" that matters, but it's putting what you learn into practice that makes a difference in your life. I hope this makes sense. It's all about applying God's Word to our lives, not just hearing it and saying, "Hmmm. Interesting."

Just something to consider...

God's peace!  
Pastor Jim