

A KOSHER HEART – PART 4
-Ryan Parsons-

Doesn't the Kingdom Jesus speaks of sound really cool? I can imagine that most of us would not only have loved to be a spectator of the famous Sermon on the Mount, but I think we would have also been cheering him on with heartfelt "Amens!" As he reframed all of life and how one joins him in the kingdom, he also warned against having a filled, distracted, and closed heart. Why? Because, without a kosher heart, they might just miss it.

As he wrapped up his sermon, he cautioned them about one final heart mistake.

Matthew 7

26 *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.* **27** *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."*

Mankind often gets excited emotionally about inspiring words, and Jesus's words were nothing short of amazing. However, the trap that often slowly lures man away from that inspiration is aimless action. Whether it is because of not fully paying attention or the desire to choose one's own path, people's actions can focus on emotions, wants, or faulty knowledge. As a result, man builds his life upon the foundation of his will rather than the will of Jesus. This leads to a life that results in what the children's song aptly calls a spiritual "splat!"

On the other hand, Jesus spends his entire sermon empowering his audience for wise action. He calls them to build a life in the kingdom that is founded upon the knowledge and will of God.

Matthew 7

24 *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* **25** *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.*

The promise associated with this wise action is the blessing of structural integrity for the life built according to and because of the foundation on which it is built. Basically, you can't go wrong with Jesus' instructions, and regardless of the climate around you, a house built upon Him will stand no matter what. That is good news!

Which foundation are you building on? It is always worth evaluating to ensure our hearts don't get carried away with aimless building.

May God richly bless you as you pursue the King.