

Sovereign Grace Church

“Your House” outline

November 18, 2018

Matthew 7: 24-27

All of us have a life to live. We really didn't ask for this life but we have it and the challenges in living it out can be quite overwhelming. It is a gift...but it is a gift which brings with it responsibility. Our lives are lived in the context of many other lives....each of them seeking to make sense out of everything that makes up the world in which they live. This is a shared world and we are especially challenged by all of those around us who are trying to make sense of their lives. These include people we love and hold dear as well as those we would not choose to be around....given a choice. They can even include those hostile to our own plans at a fulfilled life. All these lives intersect and where wills conflict the potential for serious conflict arises.

Jesus came to give us an alternative to the status quo of fallen humanity. Left to ourselves, conflict with one another seems inescapable. But Jesus says we do not have to be left to ourselves. He reveals to us another way of doing things....a way that, if pursued, will issue in genuine flourishing and joy. But in order to enter this different way we will have to give up on our own way.

This brings us to Jesus' final picture of why it is important to choose whether or not we will choose to enter His Kingdom and the consequences which follow. It is a matter of the choosing the right foundation for a flourishing life.

1. **What** are we seeking to build?

Rom. 6: 23; Prov. 14:12; Jn 10:10

2. OUR Foundation of *Sand* vv. 26-27

- What makes *sand* sand?

- **Flesh**
Gal. 6:8; 5: 19-21

- **Challenges**

3. JESUS' Foundation of Rock vv. 24-25

- **Rock, Law and Wisdom**
Gal. 2: 20; I Cor. 2: 2,5

- **Challenges**

Closing Example

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. How involved are you in building your life? If you are a child...what is your part in relation to your parents? If you are a parent...as you interact with your children...are you seeking to build their lives? Or your own? Is this a challenge for you? How do the decisions parents make in building their lives impact that of their children? What are potential consequences?**
- 2. As you have developed your life and made choices as to how to respond to things....have you ever experienced conflict, either with the choices of others or with reality itself? What happens when our choices conflict with reality? What happens when they conflict with the choices of others?**
- 3. What should be the response of people to Jesus' invitation to leave their own way of doing things and interact with Him in His Kingdom? Why? What makes Jesus' invitation different from every other invitation? Communism has been described as an imitation of God's Kingdom. What are similarities?.....what are differences? Why does Communism fail and God's Kingdom succeed?**
- 4. How did Jesus' crucifixion fit into the joy and fulfillment of life in God's Kingdom? What lessons might we draw from it as we pursue our own life-building projects in His Kingdom?**