



Church of God Sunday School

PARABLES OF JESUS: THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

A parable is a simple story that shows a moral or a spiritual lesson. Jesus' disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables. He told them, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them [people who do not have ears to hear God's Word] it is not given" (Matthew 13:11).

Jesus finished the wonderful sermon on the mount with a parable known as "The House on the Rock." Jesus wanted the people to know that true happiness does not come from only hearing the Word of God. We must hear and also do what Jesus says.

In this parable Jesus told about two different hearers of the Word. Jesus called them "builders." One builder was wise, and one was foolish. The wise builder carefully chose the place to build his house. He knew the foundation was very important. He knew that there would not always be good weather. Storms would come, and his house must be built to withstand those storms.

The wise builder dug deep and laid his foundation on a rock. He put forth much effort. After the house was built, "the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently [fiercely and violently] upon that house." This was not a gentle rainstorm. It was a serious storm, one that could do much damage, but the flood "could not shake it." That house stood firm and strong because it was "founded [or built] upon a rock."

People who hear and do the sayings of Jesus are like this wise builder. Jesus said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Next Jesus spoke of people who hear but do not obey. He told of another builder—a foolish builder. This man did not look for a firm, strong foundation. He did not dig deep for his foundation. He found a sandy place to build on. No doubt, the sand was easier to build on. He would not have to put forth as much effort as the wise builder did.

Once the foolish man's house was built, the "floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house."

This house could not withstand the fierce storms and floods, for it was not built on a rock.

Jesus said that it fell. Not only that, but it was a great fall. It was a terrible fall because it was unnecessary. If only the foolish builder had listened and obeyed the sayings of Jesus, his house would have stood!

Every one of us is building a house—not a house for us to live in with our family, but a spiritual house, a soul house. When we begin to build, we must find a foundation. The only foundation that will keep us from sure destruction is the Rock—Christ Jesus. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and to save us, we are making Him our Foundation.

Once we have chosen our foundation, we must begin to build on it. How do we build on this Rock? By obeying the sayings of Jesus. Where do we find these sayings? In the Word of God. We must read the Bible and talk to God every day to find out what His sayings are. The Bible is like a blueprint. It will tell us exactly how to build our soul house.

When the storms of life (problems, deaths of friends and loved ones, illness) come our way and beat fiercely against our soul house, we can rejoice for these storms cannot shake our house. Our house will stand because it is built on the Rock (Jesus).

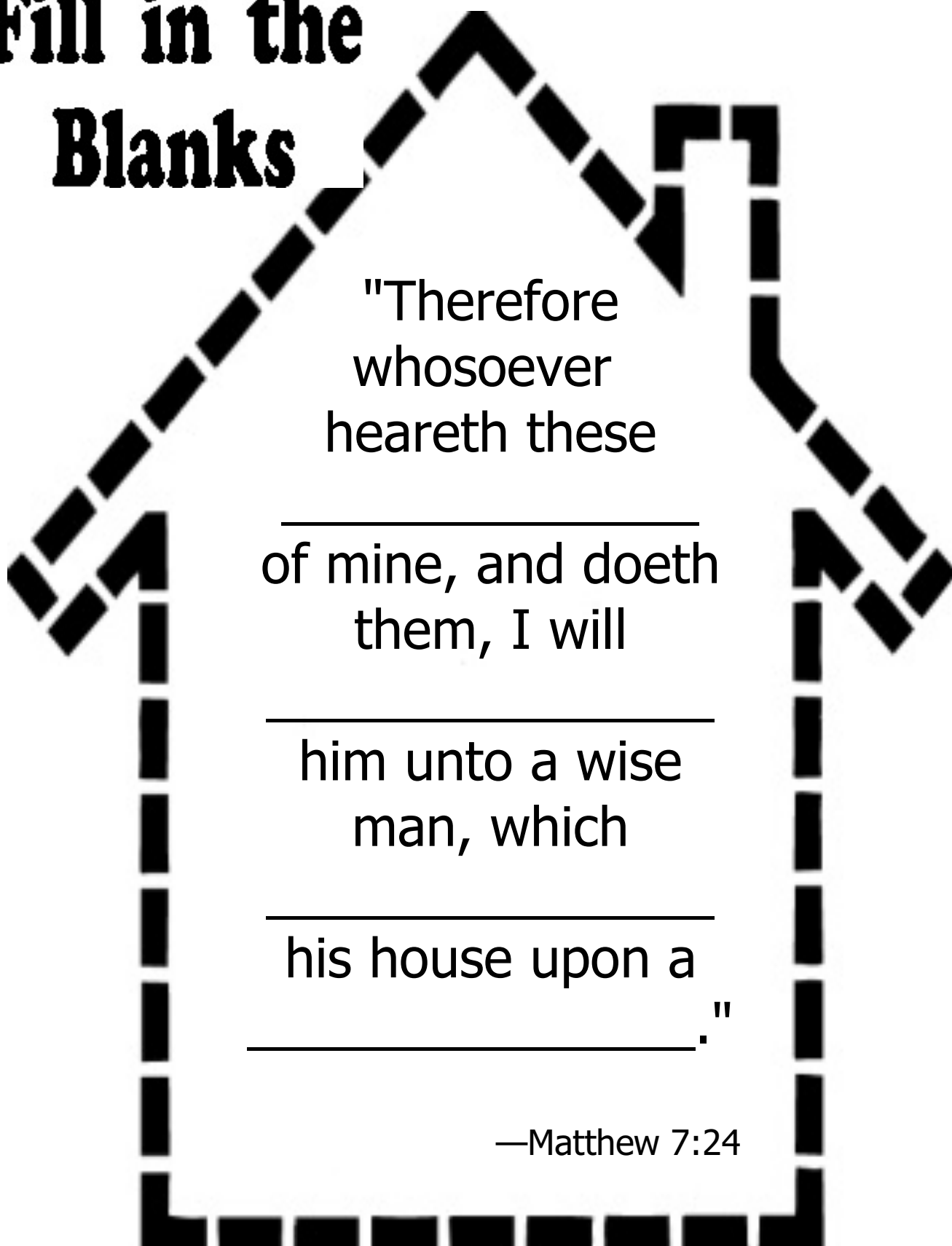
Sadly, many people are like the foolish builder. They find it is too hard to dig deep and build on the Rock (Jesus). So, they look for an easier way, a sandy place to build their soul house. The storms of life will come against them too, but their house will not be able to stand against all those storms. It will fall, just as the house of the foolish builder fell, and great will be the fall of it.

There are only two kinds of builders. Which one are you? Are you a wise builder or a foolish builder?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only."  
—James 1:22*

# Fill in the Blanks



"Therefore  
whosoever  
heareth these

\_\_\_\_\_

of mine, and doeth  
them, I will

\_\_\_\_\_

him unto a wise  
man, which

\_\_\_\_\_

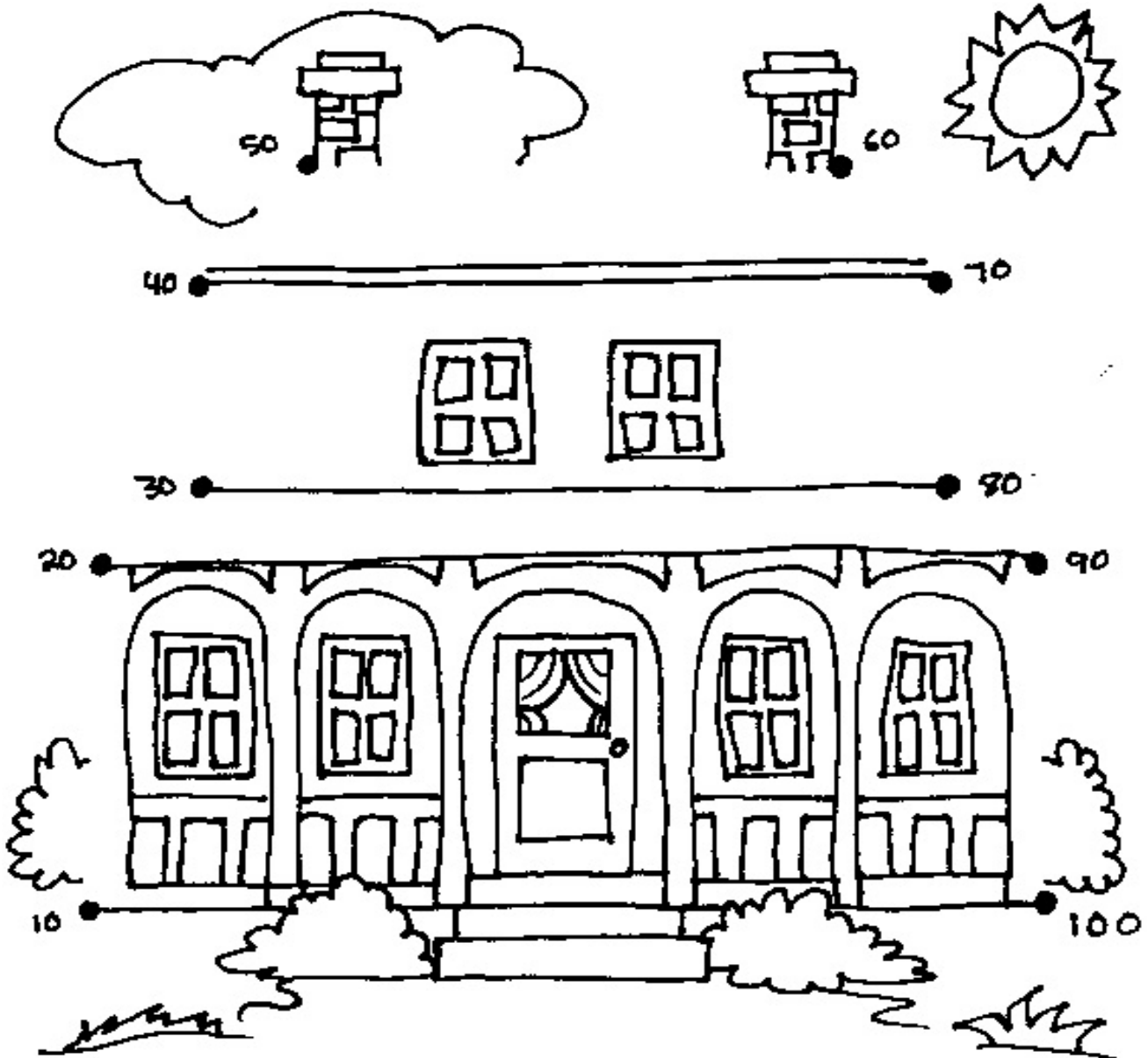
his house upon a

"

\_\_\_\_\_."

—Matthew 7:24

# Connect the Dots (counting by tens) to See What We All Are Building



**We Are Building a Soul** \_\_\_\_\_



# The Wise and Foolish Builders