

## *Christianity 101: The Wisdom of Following Jesus — Matthew 7:24-28*

As Jesus came to the end of His sermon, he concluded it by laying out two choices for those listening to Him: hear His words and do them or hear His words and don't do them. There is wisdom in following Jesus' words and foolishness in ignoring them. Today we'll see:

- The two illustrations that Jesus used
- What the two illustrations meant
- How the illustrations apply to us today.

### *Digging Deeper*

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. That can be true—the value of something depends on the outcome. So what about life? Many times, people only look at what is directly in front of them instead of seeing the bigger picture to determine if something is “good.” However, the value of life isn't fully seen until life is over. That being true, wouldn't it be best to follow Jesus' words no matter what the immediate impact might be?

1. In James 3:13-18, two different “wisdoms” are given. From verse 15, where do these “wisdoms” come from? What are they?
2. Read verse 14. What are two things that are a sign we are using the world's wisdom?
3. Read verse 16. When the world's wisdom is used, what is the outcome?
4. How does this outcome compare to the illustration of the foolish man that Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:26-27)?
5. Read verse 17. What are the 7 characteristics of godly wisdom listed?
6. Read verse 18. How does this verse compare to the illustration of the wise man that Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-25)?
7. Is it reasonable for someone to go against God's word and expect good results? Is it also reasonable to follow God's word and expect disaster? What are you following?

### *Taking It Farther—Reading throughout the week*

Mon.	Luke 6:47-49	The same passage said another way. Notice the differences?
Tues.	James 1:13-17	What verses would apply to the foolish man? The wise man?
Wed.	James 1:22-25	Can we just merely know the Bible, or do we need to do something else?
Thurs.	Ezekiel 33:30-32	Do people today look at some preachers like the Jews looked at Ezekiel?
Fri.	Proverbs 1:20-29	Is there a time when it is too late to listen to wisdom?

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1. In James 3:13-18, two different “wisdoms” are given. From verse 15, where do these “wisdoms” come from? **From heaven (or above), and earthly and demonic.** What are they? **Wisdom from above is godly wisdom that comes from the Word of God. Earthly wisdom is man's wisdom that comes from the sinful human nature.**
2. Read verse 14. What are two things that are a sign we are using the world's wisdom? **When the course of action we want to pursue is prompted by bitter envy or selfish ambition.**
3. Read verse 16. When the world's wisdom is used, what is the outcome? **There is disorder and every evil practice. We might get what we want and achieve what we set out to do, but that still doesn't make it right! Then again, we sometimes get things we didn't bargain for.**
4. How does this outcome compare to the illustration of the foolish man that Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:26-27)? **Using human wisdom is not following Jesus' words, so therefore, what is built by such a course of action will ultimately fail. It might not be seen until the day of judgment, but it will fall because of disorder and evil practice.**
5. Read verse 17. What are the 7 characteristics of godly wisdom listed? **1) Pure, 2) peace-loving, 3) considerate, 4) submissive, 5) full of mercy and good fruit, 6) impartial, and 7) sincere.**
6. Read verse 18. How does this verse compare to the illustration of the wise man that Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-25)? **What is produced from godly wisdom is righteousness, which is eternal. The righteous things we do will be blessed eternally.**
7. Is it reasonable for someone to go against God's word and expect good results? **No, but people do it all the time. It may bring immediate wealth, satisfaction, or happiness, but ultimately it will be a failure.** Is it also reasonable to follow God's word and expect disaster? **No, but we may not see the blessings from it until much later in this life or even in the next.** What are you following?

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