“A Firm Foundation For Spiritual Decisions”
Matthew 7:24-29
Warning! Hurricane Matthew Arriving – Get Out!

Gov. Deal = “Mandatory Evacuation” of 6 coastal counties east of I-95

* Get out!
* No one will come to get you!”
* “Matthew” is massive and a killer!

“Everyone” heard - wise people acted.
WE WALK OUTSIDE and look at the trees...
WE WALK ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST as the GENTLE WAVES LAP THE SHORE...
WE FLIP the SWITCH and OUR LIGHTS COME ON...

AND WE FILL OUR CARS' GAS TANKS...
THEN WE WATCH THE NEWS ABOUT HURRICANE MATTHEW and RUB OUR SCARS FROM KATRINA...
AND SAY A PRAYER FOR OUR FRIENDS ON THE EAST COAST.
Jesus Came to Illuminate Spiritual Choices

7:13-14 - the narrow gate - salvation by grace vs. broad “choices”

vs. 15-20 - beware false prophets who pretend to know the way “choices”

vss. 21-23 - necessity of knowing Christ rather than “works salvation” “choices”

Parable to emphasize WISE choices - parable of two builders
We Have No Choices About Some Things in Life

Living life - born - Ephesians 1:3-4
God knows us - Jeremiah 1:5
Born with a sin nature - Ps. 51:5

Nor about the **nature** of salvation -
A. Not by good works Rom. 3:20
B. Salvation by grace Ephesians 2:8-9
You **Will** Face Storms
(no choice) vs. 25

Not necessarily a “sign” of lacking God’s favor – James 1:2

Family issues – (much of Ephesians)

Health issues – 2 Cor. 12 “thorn”

Financial issues – Prov 22:7 – rich rules over poor, borrower lender’s slave

Temptations – 1 Peter 5:8

Church life – 1 Cor. 1 -- divisions
Each builder Had Similar Opportunities

Opportunity to build a home (resources)

Both hear the Word - Ps. 119:105 “lamp/feet; light/path”

Both have choices of where to build their homes (solid rock? sand?)

Choice of wise vs. foolish behavior

Wise - consistent with God’s plan

Foolish - waste God’s resources
Point: Build On Firm Foundation
= Obeying His Word

People who heard but did not obey
* Adam and Eve = Genesis 3
* Lot's wife = “don't look” Gen. 19:26

People who heard + obeyed = blessing
* Abraham - Gen.12 - “get up, go!”
* Jesus on Calvary’s cross!
4. Summary of the Parable

Act upon the truth you hear!

ASK: What must I do in light of God’s Word?

James 1:22 - “But prove yourselves to be hearers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

Application: Personal walk of faith;
And church = VBS, SS, AWANA, Youth