

June 2004  
Volume 15:6

# Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



# HOW TO BE HAPPY

Almost everybody in the world wants to be happy. But many people do not know what to do in order to be happy. Some people think that if they become very rich, then they will be happy. Other people think that fancy cars and big houses will make them happy. Many think that fame and popularity will make them happy, or being good at sports. But the truth is, none of those things has the ability to make a person happy. What **can** make people happy?

Since God created humans, He knows exactly what they need to do in order to be happy. In Matthew 5:3-11, Jesus gave us God's way for humans to be happy. These statements by Jesus are often called the "beatitudes" (bee-AT-ih-toods). The word beatitude means "supreme blessedness or happiness." These words by Jesus are called the beatitudes, because they tell us how to be supremely blessed and happy.

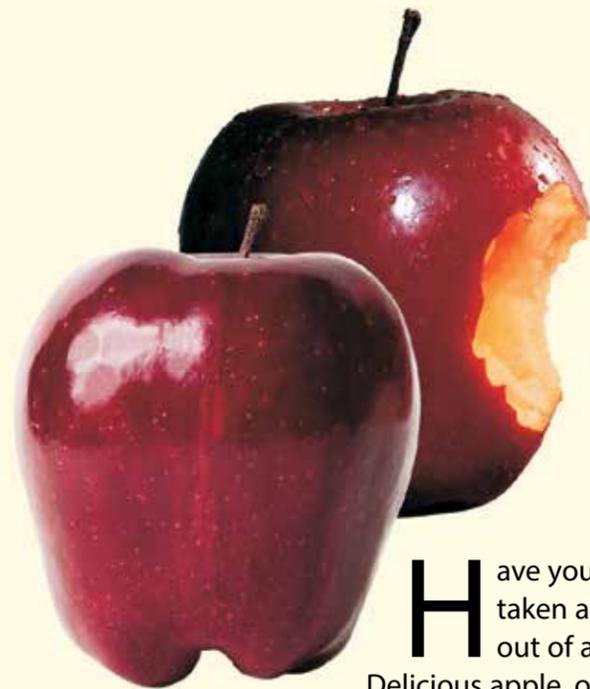
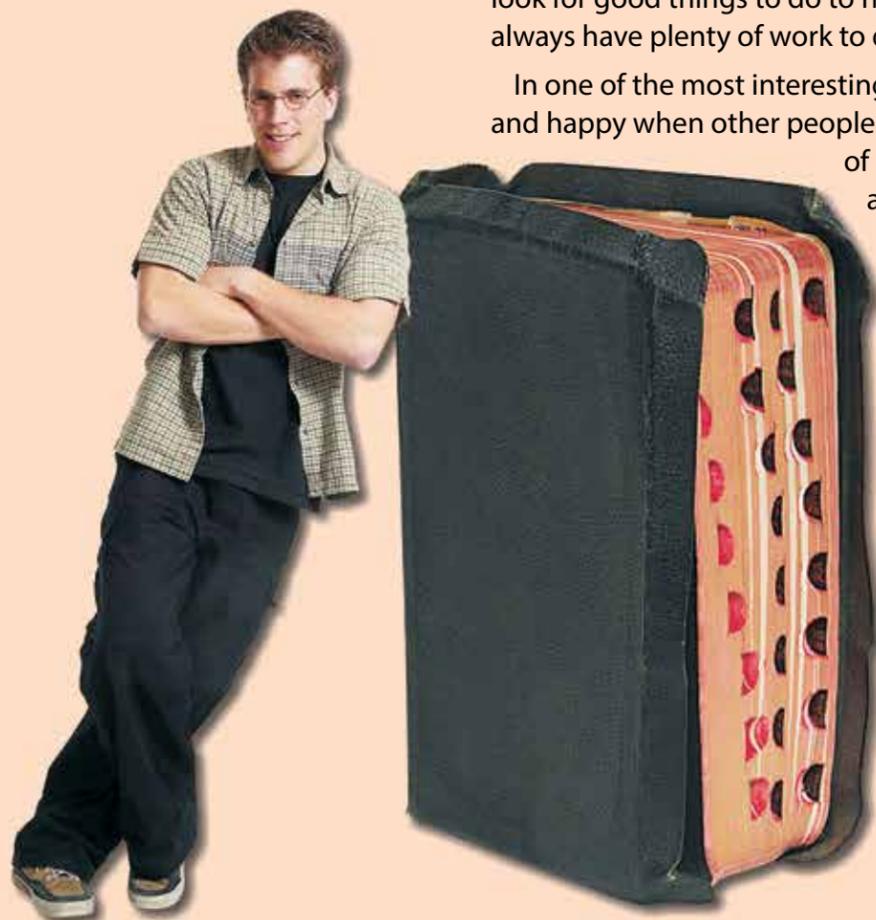
When we look at the beatitudes, we see that Jesus does not tell people that money will make them happy. Nor does He say that fame or popularity will make a person happy. In fact, the things Jesus says make people happy are not the things that the world thinks make people happy.

For instance, Jesus said that people who cry in this life are blessed, because one day they will be comforted. He also said that those people who show mercy to others are happy, because God will show mercy to them. Jesus said that those people who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" will be blessed. What does that mean? It means that those people who look for good things to do to help others will be happy, because they will always have plenty of work to do.

In one of the most interesting beatitudes, Jesus said that you are blessed and happy when other people "revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12). It sounds odd to hear Jesus say that you are happy even though people say bad things about you. But Jesus knew that when a person is obeying Him and doing right, other people who are not doing right will sometimes be mean to those righteous people. When those who are not obeying God speak evil of you for doing right, then you are in good company, because they did the same thing to Jesus and the apostles.

Instead of listening to the world tell us all the wrong ways to find happiness, let's look at the beatitudes to find God's recipe for happiness.

KYLE BUTT



# REAL Righteousness

ERIC LYONS

Have you ever taken a big bite out of a Red

Delicious apple, only to find that it was rotten to the core? I

think we would all agree that biting down on a decayed piece of apple is not a pleasant experience. You immediately feel the need to spit the terrible-tasting fruit out of your mouth. You wouldn't dare consider swallowing the disgusting rotten apple. It simply does not belong inside your body.

In a similar way, Jesus has said that God will not tolerate **people** who are "rotten" on the inside. While Jesus was on the Earth, there were certain groups of Jews known as the scribes and Pharisees who seemed to be righteous on the outside, but inwardly they were "rotten." In fact, they were so full of sin on the inside that Jesus warned other listeners saying, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).

These two groups of Jewish men prided themselves on knowing the Old Testament. They could quote numerous verses and recite many of the Old Testament stories. People often went to them for advice when wanting to understand the Old Testament better. In the Sermon on the Mount, however, Jesus condemned these men (and anyone else who is like them) for their lack of sincerity.

The scribes and Pharisees correctly stressed the sinfulness of various outward actions of people (like murder and adultery), but they failed to teach

about the possibility of people sinning on the inside. Jesus wanted people to know that it's not just murder that is wrong, but also the hatred that leads to murder (read Matthew 5:21-26). And, it is not only adultery that is wrong, but also the evil thoughts that lead a man or woman to want to have a sexual relationship with someone who is not his or her lawful spouse (read Matthew 5:27-32). Jesus demands that His followers cast sinful thinking from their minds. You see, Jesus not only wants us not to **do** bad things (like stealing, cheating, lying, and fighting), He does not even want us to **think** about doing bad things. In fact, Jesus wants us to replace bad feelings with good thoughts. Then we can love both our friends and our enemies (read Matthew 5:43-48).

To sum it all up, real righteousness is on the inside **and** the outside.



# HIDE AND DON'T SEEK

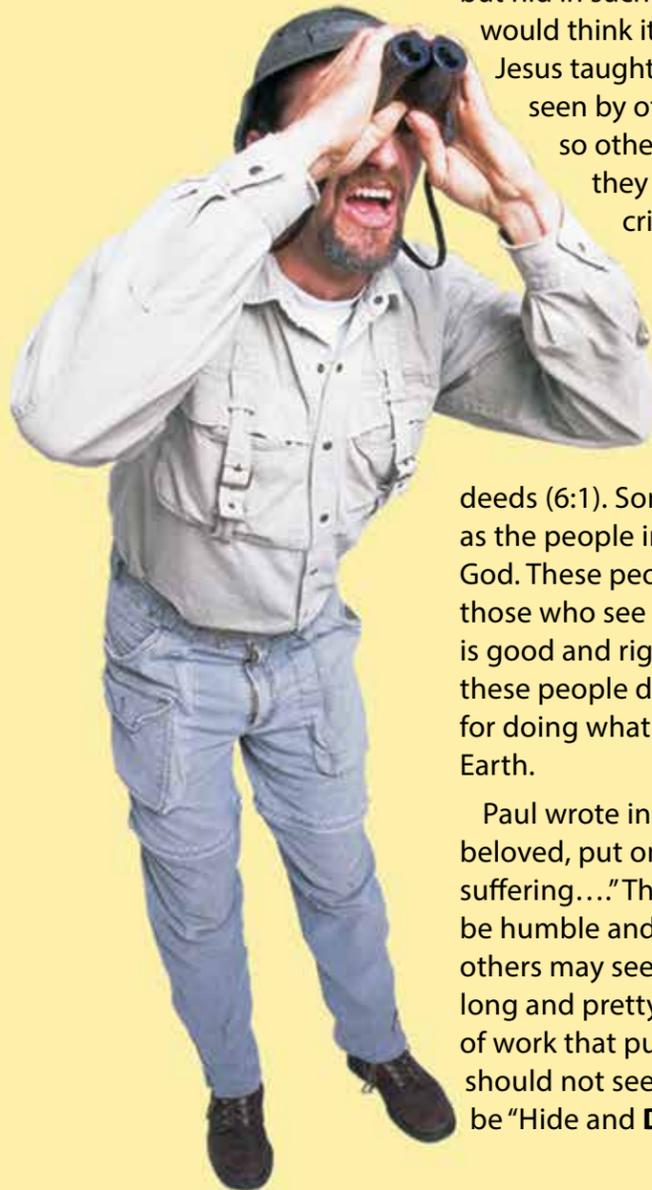
ZACH SMITH

**Y**ou know the game "Hide and Seek," where everybody hides and one person counts and then tries to find them? The point of that game, if you are hiding, is not to let the

"seeker" find out your hiding place. Wouldn't it be funny if someone hid, but hid in such an obvious place just so the "seeker" would find him? We would think it was odd if the person was trying to be seen! However, Jesus taught in Matthew 6:1-18 that some people do things just to be seen by others. These men would do good works, pray, and fast, just so others would see them and talk about what religious people they were. "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward" (Matthew 6:5).

In all three examples (working, praying, and fasting), Jesus said that "they have their reward" when they are seen by men, and receive no reward from God for their deeds (6:1). Some people today do this, and their problem is the same as the people in Jesus' day: they are not humble, and are not focused on God. These people receive their reward in the praise that they get from those who see them, and this becomes their only reason for doing what is good and right. They pretend to hide, but really want to be seen. What these people do not understand is that the reward we receive in heaven for doing what is right is far better than the praise we might receive on Earth.

Paul wrote in Colossians 3:12: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, **humility**, meekness, long-suffering..." This is what Jesus is teaching us in Matthew 6:1-18—to be humble and do things because they need to be done, not because others may see what we do and praise us. Our prayers should not be long and pretty just to impress others, and we should not seek the kind of work that puts us in the spotlight every time. In our Christian life, we should not seek to draw attention to ourselves. For us, the game should be "Hide and **Don't** Seek."



# WEALTH and WORRY

ALDEN BASS

**A**dults have a lot of responsibility. Your parents go to work every day in order to make enough money to feed you, your brothers and sisters (if you have any), and themselves. They also must keep their family clothed and sheltered, which is another expense. These days, many families feel it necessary to take out a loan to pay for certain things (like a house). If those payments do not get to the bank on time, there is a possibility that the lender will take back the house. Also, many people feel that they must live up to a certain standard that their neighbors have set. For instance, if the person next door buys a brand new car, sometimes we feel we need to get a new car as well. Or if your friends at school wear a certain style of clothes, you may feel that you must have that style of clothes, too. The solution to these problems, of course, is more money. Of all the things that we have to worry about, it sometimes seems that money tops the list, and is on our minds the most.

This problem is not a recent one, however; people struggled with issues of wealth even in Jesus' day.

Fortunately, the Master Teacher offered some good advice on the subject—advice that we would do well to observe. Jesus began by showing the difference between earthly wealth and spiritual wealth—revealing that spiritual riches are more important. He



then instructed us to "lay up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20), because, unlike earthly treasures, they are not subject to corrosion, theft, or destruction. We build up our heavenly riches by living righteously and obeying God. The Lord promised us that as long as our minds are focused on the important things—God and His church—the less-important physical needs will be met (6:33).

This does not mean that Christians are to sit around and wait for God to feed and clothe them. Jesus made an example of the lilies, which do not work, yet are clothed more beautifully than great kings. He also spoke of the birds, which do not plant seed or harvest grain, yet are fed plentifully. Jesus was not saying that we are to be like the birds and the flowers by doing nothing to help ourselves. Rather, like them, we should not worry about our bodily needs. Our Father, Who made us, will provide.

This instruction of Jesus is of the greatest value, and is a glittering gem in the New Testament. Worrying is useless, and can shorten our lives and make them much less enjoyable. By placing our faith in the Creator, we displace anxiety, and can focus on the important things in life—like serving God.

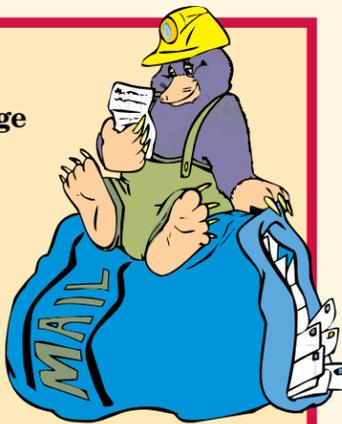
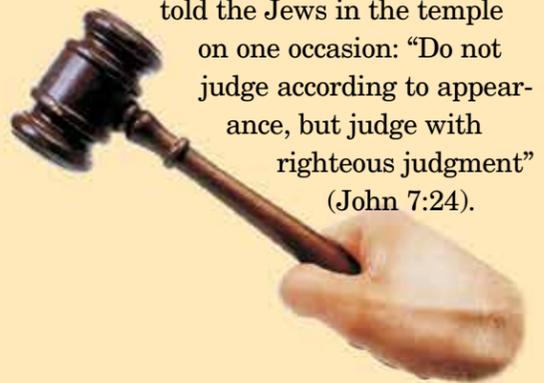
**Digger Doug,  
Is it wrong to judge  
people?**

Dear reader,  
One of the most  
often-quoted vers-  
es in the Bible is  
Matthew 7:1—

“Judge not, that  
you be not judged.”  
People involved in doing bad things often  
quote this verse when attempting to  
defend their sinful lifestyle. This verse is  
used by some people as a kind of scare  
tactic: “Do you dare judge me? Jesus  
said, ‘Judge not, that you be not judged.’”  
Some would have us believe Jesus meant  
that we cannot pass judgment on anyone  
at anytime.

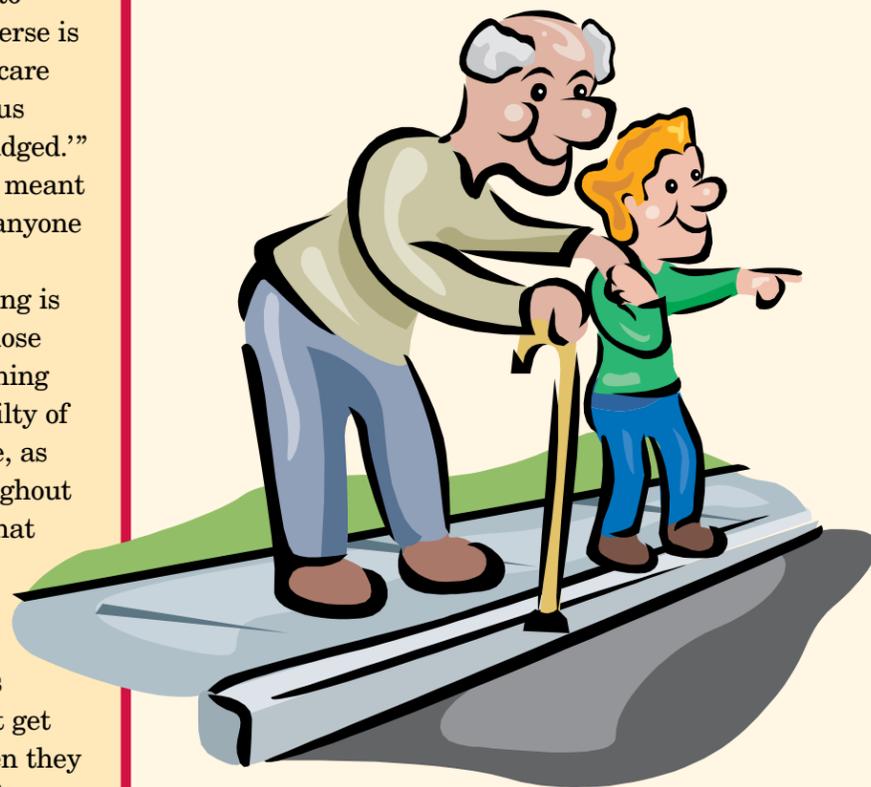
The popular idea that “all judging is  
wrong” is not biblical, however. Those  
who teach that Jesus was condemning  
all judging in Matthew 7:1, are guilty of  
ignoring the context of the passage, as  
well as the numerous verses throughout  
the rest of the Bible which teach that  
judging the sinful lifestyles of oth-  
ers is necessary. One key ingredi-  
ent that we need to use in every  
judgment is “righteousness.” Jesus  
commanded that His disciples first get  
their own lives right with God; then they  
can “see clearly” to be of help to others  
who are sinning (Matthew 7:5). As Jesus

told the Jews in the temple  
on one occasion: “Do not  
judge according to appear-  
ance, but judge with  
righteous judgment”  
(John 7:24).



**TRUE OR FALSE**

1. \_\_\_ Jesus taught that all judging is wrong.
2. \_\_\_ God wants us to show our love for Him by obeying His commandments.
3. \_\_\_ The foolish man who built his house on the sand represents people who disobey God.
4. \_\_\_ God does not want us to worry about our needs.
5. \_\_\_ Jesus wants both our thoughts and our actions to be righteous.



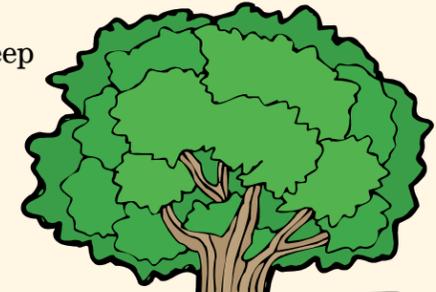
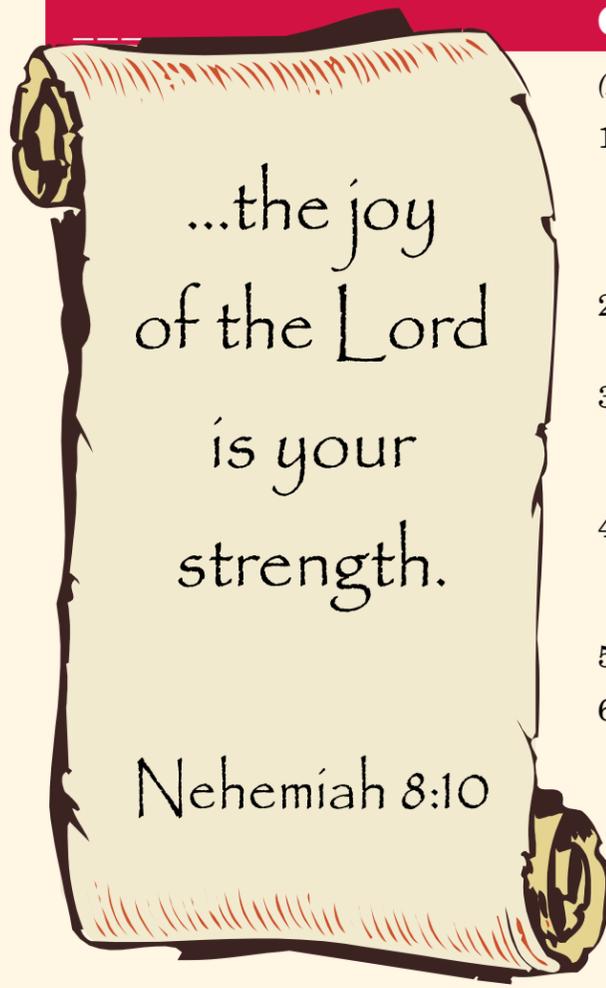
**Discussion Questions**

1. What are the beatitudes?
2. What is the difference between a wise man and a foolish man?
3. Explain why all judging is not wrong.

**COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES**

(New King James Version)

1. “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 5:20).
2. “Do not \_\_\_\_\_ according to appearance, but judge with \_\_\_\_\_ judgment” (John 7:24).
3. “Not everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who \_\_\_\_\_ the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).
4. “\_\_\_\_\_ are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake” (Matthew 5:11).
5. “Judge not, that you be not \_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 7:1).
6. For this is the love of \_\_\_\_\_, that we keep His \_\_\_\_\_” (1 John 5:3).



**SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE**

1. Instead of listening to the world tell us all the wrong ways to find happiness, we need to look at the \_\_\_\_\_ to find God’s recipe for happiness.
2. Those people who show mercy to others will be happy, because God will show \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ man built his house on the sand.
4. Jesus condemned certain groups of the scribes and \_\_\_\_\_ for their lack of sincerity.
5. We build up our \_\_\_\_\_ riches by living righteously and obeying God.
6. God expects our \_\_\_\_\_ to exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees.
7. The wise man built his house on the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In our Christian life, we should not seek to draw attention to \_\_\_\_\_.



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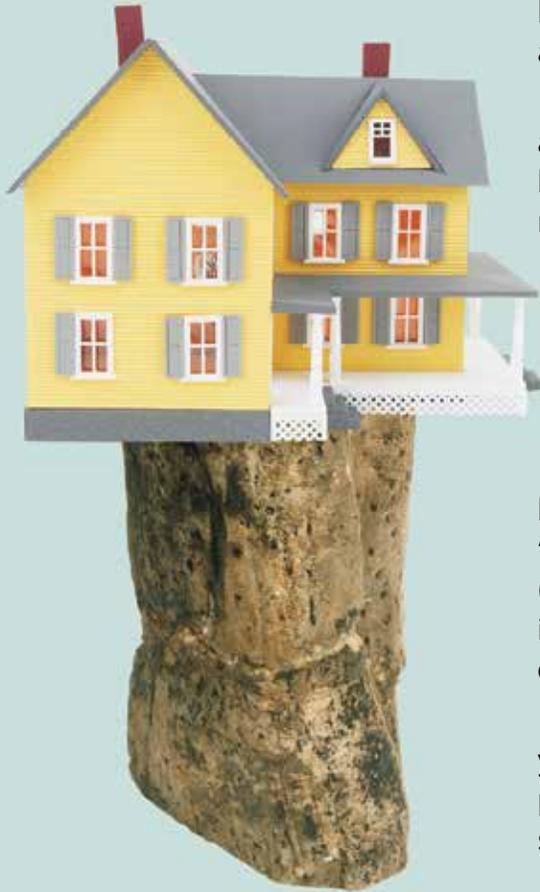
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 Montgomery, AL 36117  
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# Build Your HOUSE



# on the ROCK

DAVE MILLER

**W**e've all sung the song, "The Wise Man," using our fists to "build" the house on the rock and our fingers to let the rains come down. The song ends: "So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ." What exactly does that statement mean? What does it mean to build your life on Christ, and what does the parable of the wise man and the foolish man mean?

You remember the details of the parable: a wise man built his house on a rock, and when the rain came, and the floodwaters rose, and the winds blew and beat on the house, it did not fall because it was founded on the rock. On the other hand, the foolish man built his house on sand. When the rains came, the flood waters rose, and the winds beat on his house, it fell. The picture is clear enough. But what does this parable mean to us?

Jesus made two very important comments before He told the parable. First, He said: "Not everyone who **says** to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Second, He made an important contrast between "whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and **does** them" and "everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do** them" (Matthew 7:24,26). Here is the point of the parable! Jesus was contrasting the person who **claims** to follow Him with the person who **actually does** follow Him.

If you claim to follow Jesus, do you always tell the truth to others? Do you ever cheat or steal? Are you kind to other people? Do you obey your parents? Do you tell your friends about Jesus? Are you selfish? Do you show a bad attitude?

It is not enough to **say** you love Jesus, or to **say** that you follow Him. You have to **do** it! Loving Jesus means doing what He tells us to do (1 John 5:3). Building your life on the Lord Jesus Christ means to live your life doing what He says to do. May God help each of us to study His Word, and then to pattern our lives after those words. Let us do what Jesus tells us to do in the Bible.

## ANSWERS

**SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE:** 1. beatitudes; 2. mercy; 3. foolish; 4. Pharisees; 5. heavenly; 6. righteousness; 7. rock; 8. ourselves.  
**COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES:** 1. scribes, heaven; 2. judge, righteous; 3. says, does; 4. blessed; 5. judged; 6. God, commands.  
**TRUE OR FALSE:** 1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T; 5-F.

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