



REVIEW: getting Jesus' words into us and letting them do something to us. // PRAY

ILL: Earthquake // ground opening // drills // actually small shaking

## HOW DO WE BUILD STABLE LIVES?

Matthew 7:24-29 (p. 673)

- ▶ Wisdom is **living** your life by what Jesus **says**.
- ▶ Foolishness is living your life according to **convenience**.
- ▶ The wise know stability, but the foolish know destruction.  
Will you survive the storm? // in the latest BATMAN movie, one character turns bad.

Stability is only found by **living out**  
the **words** of **Jesus**.

FOUR EXAMPLE TEACHINGS GLEANED FROM MATTHEW 6-7 // devotionals this week.

### 1. STABILITY BEGINS IN THE **nature** OF **God**.

- ▶ BONUS: God never **changes**.
- ▶ God knows what we **need** (6:7-8).
- ▶ God lovingly **cares** for us (6:25-34; 7:7-12).  
GOD'S FAITHFUL CARE IS AVAILABLE TO ALL, BUT APPLIED ONLY TO HIS CHILDREN!

### 2. STABILITY IS RECEIVED BY LIVING IN CLOSE **relationship** WITH GOD.

One of the most important lessons on prayer... FRIENDS CLIP

- ▶ Pray with **simple integrity** (6:8-15).
- ▶ Pursue God's **perspective** (6:16-24).  
ILL: GET IN A RELATIONSHIP TO CHANGE SOMEONE... WON'T WORK WITH GOD!  
FASTING: SLIDESHOW OF FOOD PICTURES. What is something you think about every day, you plan for every day, you do every day, you could live without for a while, but you don't want to? It's prayer, right?  
MONEY: STABILITY IN LIFE DOESN'T COME FROM THE ABUNDANCE OF MONEY!

### 3. STABILITY COMES FROM **right** JUDGMENTS.

- ▶ Judge **yourself** thoroughly (7:1-5).
- ▶ Judge others **cautiously** (7:6).

### 4. STABILITY COMES FROM FOLLOWING CHRIST **alone**.

Matthew 7:13-23

## SO WHAT?

Live out the words of Jesus as a **child** of **God**.

It's so easy for us to look for tangible things to offer us stability.

I have known people looking for RELATIONSHIP to stabilize them

Some look for EDUCATION to stabilize them.

Some look for MONEY to stabilize them.

Some look for CHURCH to stabilize them.

It is ONLY BY LIVING OUT THE WORDS OF JESUS AS A CHILD OF GOD

:: John 1:12 ::