



Study Guide: Building Your House on the Rock

Sermon Topic: Holiness, obedience and building a firm foundation

Link:

<https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-01-04-the-final-warning-build-your-house-on-the-rock>

Scripture Focus	Speaker	Date
Matthew 7:15-27	Steve Haney	1/4/2026

Theme 1: The Test of Fruit

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 7:15-20 (You will recognize them by their fruits) & John 13:34-35

True discipleship is visible in the *actions* of a person's life, not just their words.

Reflection Questions

1. The sermon warns that a "diseased tree bears bad fruit." What "fruit" (behavior, reaction, habit) in your life currently feels unhealthy or misaligned with Jesus's teaching?
2. Jesus said people will know you are His disciples "if you have love for one another." Reflect on your most challenging interaction this past week. Did your response demonstrate this love? What would a 'good fruit' response look like next time?

Action Step

This week, choose one person you frequently interact with (family, coworker, neighbor) and commit to showing them a tangible act of Christ-like love and respect

Theme 2: Faith in Action

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 7:21 (Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter) & James 2:19

The core message is that faith must change your life. God desires holiness over mere happiness.

Reflection Questions

1. The sermon defines faith as putting belief into action. What specific command from the Sermon on the Mount (e.g., forgiveness, purity, generosity) are you currently struggling to "do"?
2. Steve noted that many believe God only wants them to be happy, but He actually wants them to be holy. How has pursuing happiness interfered with your pursuit of holiness? How can submission to God bring greater joy than seeking personal contentment?
3. Jesus calls those who perform great works but do not do the Father's will "workers of lawlessness." In your own life, what are you relying on (good deeds, church attendance, knowledge) instead of active, life-changing obedience to God's word?

Action Step:

Identify one area where you are currently *claiming* Jesus as Lord but not *making* Him Lord (e.g., your finances, your use of time). Write down one concrete step to increase obedience in that area.

Theme 3: Building on the Rock

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 7:24-27 (The Wise and Foolish Builders)

The conclusion of the sermon is a final call to action: only obedience to His teaching offers stability against the inevitable storms of life.

Reflection Questions

1. The wise builder's house did not fall "because it had been founded on the rock." What current "storm" (trial, temptation, anxiety) are you facing? In what specific way is your foundational knowledge of Christ helping you remain stable?
2. The sermon mentioned the difficulty of the "straight and narrow path." What is one sacrifice or difficult choice you need to make this week to ensure you remain on the path of holiness?

Action Step:

Take a moment today to thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made, which motivates your choice to live a holy, submissive life. Re-read the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) as a fresh reminder of the blessed character Jesus calls you to build.