Small Group Questions | Built to Last | Matthew 7:21-29

The foundation of a home is one of its most important features, yet it's something we rarely think about once the home is built. A solid foundation provides stability and enables a home to withstand storms and challenges. As Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount, He uses the illustration of two builders to teach us about the importance of our spiritual foundation. Both builders heard His words, but only one put them into practice. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has invited us to live differently by allowing His words to shape our relationships, priorities, and actions. A lasting faith is built on knowing Jesus and living out His Word.

1. In the sermon, Pastor Neal shared about learning the importance of a foundation while growing up around construction. Have you ever experienced a situation where preparation or a solid foundation made all the difference? What did you learn?

2. Read **Matthew 7:21–23**. Jesus paints a picture of people who called Him “Lord” and participated in ministry. What does this passage teach us about the difference between knowing about Jesus and having a personal relationship with Him?

3. Read **Ephesians 2:8–10**. How does Paul's teaching about grace, faith, and good works help us understand Jesus' words in Matthew 7:21–23? What are some ways religious activity can distract us from cultivating a genuine relationship with Jesus?

4. Read **Matthew 7:24–27 and James 1:22–25**. Both builders heard Jesus' words, but only one acted on them. Why is it sometimes easier to hear and understand God's Word than to put it into practice? What helps you live out Scripture?

5. Jesus describes two houses that experienced the same storm but had very different outcomes. How have difficult seasons exposed the foundation of your faith? What spiritual practices are helping you build a lasting foundation in Christ?

6. Read **Matthew 7:28–29**. The crowds were amazed by Jesus' teaching and His authority. What is the difference between admiring Jesus' teaching and submitting to His authority? Why does that distinction matter in our daily lives?

7. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about forgiveness, prayer, generosity, relationships, and seeking God's Kingdom first. Which of these teachings has challenged you the most during this series? How are you living that out?

8. Close your time praying for the strength to live out the Sermon on the Mount.