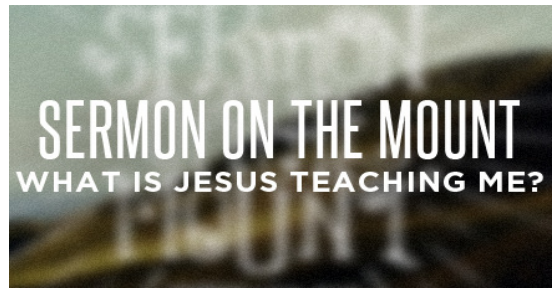
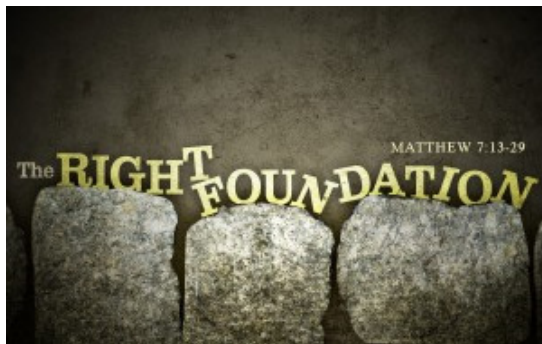


# Lessons for Life



## Week 11

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website ([www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk](http://www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk)). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



### Read Matthew 7:24-29

This is the eleventh and final study in our series based on the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7) entitled *Lessons for Life*. These chapters contain various sayings of Jesus that together form a coherent body of teaching. If we are to be true and authentic followers of Jesus we need to model our lives on what Jesus says here and allow it to shape, inform and define our identity. Throughout the Sermon Jesus invites his hearers to choose how they will live – God's way or their way. The final choice is the most important because it deals with the foundations of our life house. Are we building on that which is deep, lasting and solid, anchored to secure bed rock or on that which is shallow, short-sighted and shifting and will not stand the test of time or adversity? Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?

### Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. Read Psalm 62:1,2,5-8; 18:1-3,30,31; 89:24-26; Deuteronomy 32:1-6; Isaiah 26:3,4; 44:8. God is often described as a rock. Why is this? In what ways is God like a rock?
2. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 contains an intriguing reference to an episode in the wilderness wanderings of Israel from Exodus 17:1-7. How do you understand this symbolism? See John 4:14, Isaiah 12:2,3 and John 7:37-39.
3. 'As the whirlwind passes, so is the wicked no more; but the righteous is an everlasting foundation' (Proverbs 10:25). Jesus expands on this picture by contrasting wise and foolish builders. The wise man is the one who has 'dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock' (Luke 6:48). What is the 'rock' and how do we build on it? See also 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 & Ephesians 2:11-22.
4. What are the characteristics of the wise man in verse 24? What is the one difference between the wise and the foolish man, and between wise hearing and foolish hearing? See James 1:22-27.
5. What does Jesus mean by 'these words of mine'? Is he just referring to this Sermon? See also Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16 and Psalm 119:105.
6. What is symbolised by the rain, winds and floods in this parable? See Isaiah 28:14-19 and Ezekiel 13:10-16.
7. The Sermon on the Mount was a teacher's instruction to his disciples (ch. 5:1). What do we infer from the reference to the crowds in v.28? Why were they amazed at his teaching? In what ways was Jesus' teaching different from that of the 'teachers of the law'? See Matthew 8:9; 9:6-8; 10:1; 21:23-27; 28:18.
8. Do we appreciate Jesus' teaching enough? How can we make it more authoritative in our lives? Are you living according to Scripture (1 Corinthians 4:6)? See 1 Peter 3:8-12
9. The hope we have in Jesus is described as 'an anchor for the soul' (Hebrews 6:19). Do you feel secure in your relationship with Jesus? Do you need to dig deeper? How can you do this?

In chapters 5-7 Matthew has given us an account of the *words* of Jesus. As a corollary to the Sermon on the Mount, in chapter 8 he gives us the *deeds* of Jesus. Chapters 5,6 and 7 show us the divine wisdom in words; chapter 8 shows us the divine love in action. It is a chapter of miracles. Take time to read and reflect on these seven miraculous happenings.