



## Building instructions: Matthew 7.24-29

**1. Their destinies – if we can call them that - are determined by the mystical combination of their choices and God's work within them.** Discuss the tension between our evident free will and the sovereignty of God accomplishing his purposes within us. What dangers lie at each end of the spectrum? Eg. Emphasizing that we are masters of our destiny versus God controlling every choice we make.

**2. Some within Israel taught that the temple, God's house, was built upon a rock and could resist the storms that broke upon the nation.** What are you tempted to build your life upon that stands in opposition to God? Discuss the many and varied possibilities. Career. Family. Power. Etc.

**3. But we need to be clear about this. To follow his teaching is about *actually doing* what he's taught them.** In what way do we dodge the issue by talking about our beliefs, our love for God and our faith, while not actually doing any of the things called for by Jesus in the sermon? Discuss the dangers of hypocrisy in your own life. If you can!

**4. While amazement is good, it isn't commitment.** How often are you impressed by Jesus and his words, but you don't obey? How has the sermon changed your view of obedience and your belief about the possibility of actually being able to obey?

**5. He's calling them to base their lives upon his teaching.** Discuss around the group what each person has specifically learnt during the series. Ask each person to choose the teaching that had the most impact, and what specific difference it has made in their life.