

**Cultivating  
a Christian Character**

***Studies in  
The Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew chapters 5-7***

***Build to Last!***  
***Matthew 7.24-29***

***Our choice – what kind of builder  
am I going to be for my life?  
beware of being a cowboy! vs 21-23, 26-27***

## **1. Foundations are all-important**

- ***The foolish builder ignores Jesus' instructions***
    - “They don't apply to me – only to others”***
    - “I know what's best”***
    - “They're not really necessary”***
    - “I've forgotten what they were”***
- Mark 4.3-15; Luke 6.46***

# 1. Foundations are all-important

- *The wise builder applies Jesus' instructions*
  - to his character building 5.3-12*
  - to his influence in the world 5.13-16*
  - to his anger management 5.21-26*
  - heart purity 5.27-20*
  - marital faithfulness 5.31-32*
  - truthfulness of speech 5.33-37*
  - aversion to compensation 5.38-40*
  - generosity 5.41-42*
  - love and prayer for enemies 5.43-48*
  - to his religious duties: giving, prayer 6.1-18*
  - to his possessions, material needs 6.19-34*
  - to his attitudes towards others 7.1-6*
  - to his persistence in prayer 7.7-12*

## 2. Storms are inevitable

- *They will test the soundness of our foundations*  
*things may come crashing down on us*  
*things may rise up and engulf us*  
*things may strike us head on*

## 3. Stability is assured

- *providing we follow our master's instructions*  
*he comes alongside to strengthen us*  
*2 Cor 1.3-4,8-11; 4.8-9,11,16-18; Heb 13.5-8*

## 4. Disintegration, collapse are avoidable

- *providing we follow our master's instructions*  
*the choice is ours*