The Wise and Foolish Builder

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<td>24&quot;Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.</td>
<td>47I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.</td>
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<td>25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.</td>
<td>48He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.</td>
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<td>26But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.</td>
<td>49But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.</td>
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<td>27The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.&quot;</td>
<td>The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.&quot;</td>
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Setting:
This short parable falls in the midst of three other short parables all of which have to do with warnings about judgment (Harrington 107). They fall right at the end of the sermon on the mount, much like the final warnings or last statements of a well written speech.

Exegetical Analysis:
Matthew Verse 14, Mark Verse 18, & Luke Verse 33
This verse seems to be mostly similar in the parallel versions of scripture. There is some difference as to who is addressing Jesus, but nonetheless the question they are asking is the same. As Donald Hagner points out John’s disciples and the Pharisees where not questioning why they
themselves were fasting, the were in fact wondering why the disciples of Jesus were not (Hagner 242)

Matthew Verse 24 & Luke Verse 47
Jesus makes a strong point right away in this parable. A person cannot simply hear the words of Jesus and expect to be saved, the person has to put these words into practice in order for the words to do the person any good.

Matthew Verse 24 & Luke Verse 48
Jesus seems to like using the imagery of a rock being a firm foundation as it shows up in several places. Luke goes into a little more detail than Matthew does; Luke describes the detail and the work that is needed to be able to build the house on the rock, one has to dig down deep then lay the foundation on the rock. This seems to imply that once again a person cannot simply hear the words of Jesus but that they have to put them into practice.

Matthew Verses 26-27 & Luke Verse 49
Once again, there is some difference in the story between Matthew and Luke but the core the story is still the same. If a person does not take the time to properly build the house on a firm foundation, then they are considered foolish and their house will come down.

Message/Application:
There are multiple messages in this passage, the most obvious being the warning of judgment and building your faith on a firm foundation, because there will be trials and tribulations, but if your faith has a foundation then you should not be knocked down. Another message in here which seems to be just as important is in the words of Jesus when he makes the statement “put them into practice.” This would seem to imply that a person is incapable of simply hearing about Jesus and would be able to stand up to the trials and tribulations that come. The person has to actually do something in order for the faith to be built.


- Pretty well done. Double-spacing is nice for readability.
- Grade: B+