**Lighthouse Group: The Final Verdict**
**Main Idea**
Genuine faith is demonstrated by a life of obedience to Christ's teachings, which serves as a firm foundation in both life's trials and the final judgment.

**Scripture Reading**
Matthew 7:24–27

**Sermon Recap**
Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has shown us the character of those who belong to His kingdom. As He closes, He creates a contrast between two builders: one wise, one foolish. The difference between them is not their intelligence or academic ability, but how they respond to His words. Jesus teaches that hearing His Word without obedience is like building on sand, while hearing and doing His Word is like building on a rock. We are all building our lives on something, and when the storms of life—and the final judgment—arrive, only the life built on obedience to Christ will stand.

**Discussion Questions**

**1. The Two Builders**
Jesus describes two builders who both heard the same message. How is it possible to hear the same truth but result in two completely different foundations?

*Dig Deeper*: Think about your own spiritual rhythm. When you read the Bible or hear a sermon, are you listening primarily to be informed or to be changed?

*(Notes)*

**2. Defining Wisdom**
We often define a "wise person" as someone with great intelligence or knowledge. Based on this text, why is that definition insufficient?

*Dig Deeper*: Who is someone you consider "wise" in a biblical sense? What do they do that makes you label them as wise?

*(Notes)*

**3. The Authority of Christ**
Jesus specifically says, "everyone who hears these words of mine." Why was this specific phrasing so staggering for His original audience, and what does it demand from us today?

*Dig Deeper*: Does your practical, daily life treat Jesus' teachings as authoritative, or as optional advice?

*(Notes)*

**4. The Work of Obedience**
In Luke's account of this parable, the wise builder had to "dig deep." Why do you think people prefer the easier, shallow path of "sand-building" (ignoring obedience) even though they know a storm is coming?

*Dig Deeper*: Where are you currently tempted to choose the "easy" path rather than the "deep" work of obedience?

*(Notes)*

**5. The Purpose of Storms**
Jesus says the storm came and beat against the house. How should this reality change our view of the trials we face in this life?

*Dig Deeper*: When you are in a "storm," do you find yourself drifting toward God or away from Him? What does that tell you about your foundation?

*(Notes)*

**6. The "Mirror" Effect**
James 1:22–24 compares someone who hears but doesn't do to a man who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what he saw. How does the Word of God act as a mirror in our daily lives?

*Dig Deeper*: When was the last time a passage of Scripture or a sermon actually changed your behavior? If you can't remember, what might that suggest?

*(Notes)*

**7. Religion vs. Relationship**
A person can attend church, read the Bible, and use Christian language while still building on "sand." How can we discern if our faith is built on Christ or merely on religious activity?

*Dig Deeper*: Are there religious habits you keep that have become "sand"—things you do to appear godly, but that have no root in your actual heart toward God?

*(Notes)*

**8. The Call to Grow**
What does it look like to be "conformed into the image and likeness of Jesus" in a practical way this week?

*Dig Deeper*: If you were to ask a family member or close friend, "Is there an area of my life that needs to align more with Jesus' teaching?", what would they say?

*(Notes)*

**Carry-It-Forward**
What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?

*(Notes)*

**Prayer Prompts**

- **Confession**: Ask God to reveal where we have been hearers of the Word but not doers. Confess areas of laziness or preference for the "easy road".
- **Dependence**: Pray for the strength to "dig deep" and build on the Rock of Christ, especially when obedience feels costly.
- **The Church**: Pray that [link removed] would be a body of people who are not just astonished by Jesus' words, but are actively living them out.

**Go Deeper**

- **Read**: 1 Corinthians 3:9–15. How does Paul's imagery of building on the foundation of Christ complement Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7?
- **Reflect**: Read Psalm 1. How does the imagery of the tree planted by water compare to the wise man building on the rock?
- **Memorize**: James 1:22: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves".