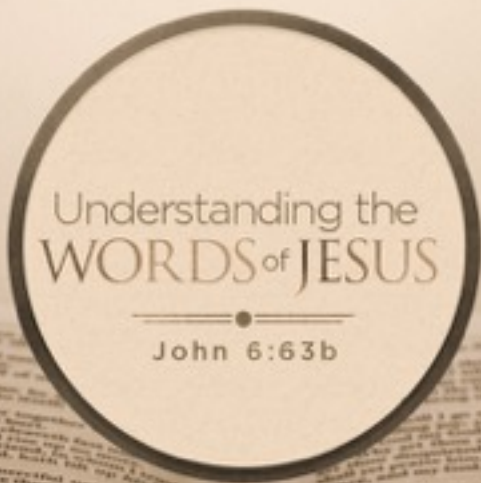
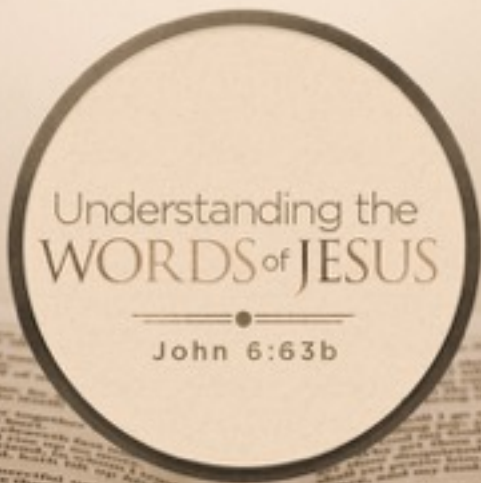


Here we have a compact and instructive presentation by our Lord, illustrating for us a distinct likeness of two sorts of people, both of whom pay at least some attention to what Jesus says. The context of this parable is that of a true disciple vs. one that is false. The contrast is given in three ways in Matthew 7:



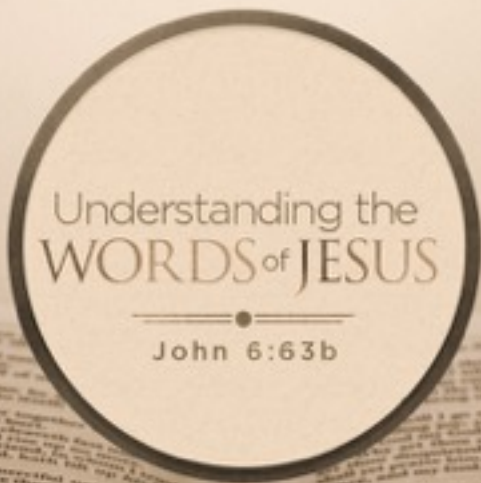
First we see two trees (Matthew 7: 15-20). “The good tree produces good fruit but the bad tree produces bad fruit.”



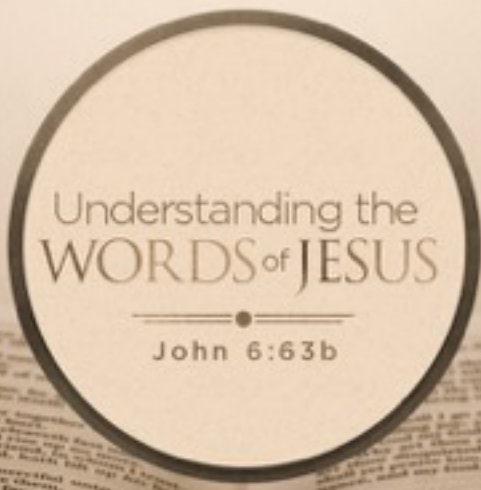
Understanding the
WORDS of JESUS

John 6:63b

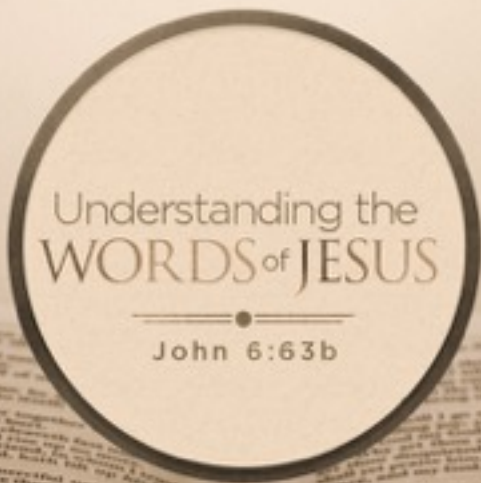
Next we see the contrast of two claims of true discipleship. “Not everyone who says to me, „Lord, Lord,“ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven will enter” (Matthew 7:21-23).



And finally, there is the subject of the parable itself (vs. 24-27), the wise man builds his house on the rock while the foolish builds his house on the sand.



This parable is not the only place in Scripture where the concept of hearing vs. doing is presented. Two of the most notable examples are found in Ezekiel and James:



Ezekiel 33:31-33

31 They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain.

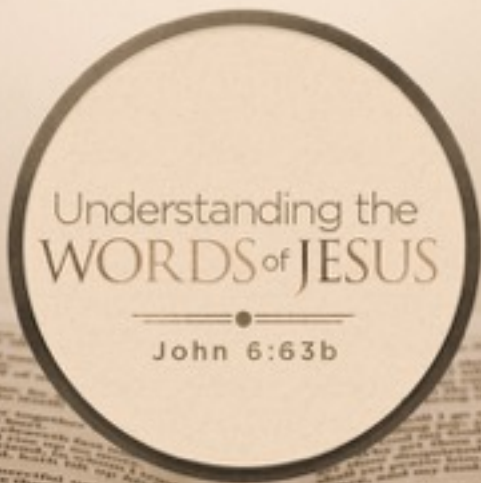
32 Behold, you are to them like a sensual
song by one who has a beautiful voice and
plays well on an instrument; for they hear
your words but they do not practice them.
33 So when it comes to pass—as surely it will
—then they will know that a prophet has
been in their midst.”

James 1:22-25

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

First we will look at the builders themselves, beginning with the wise man. Who is he and what are his characteristics? The Greek for “wise man” is [phronimoo].



Strong's Concordance

5429:phronimos: practically wise, sensible

Phonetic Spelling: (fron'-ee-mos)

Definition: intelligent, prudent, sensible,
wise.

Such a man or woman longs to hear Jesus" words and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, is pricked to the heart at any inconsistency between his own life and Jesus" royal way. Like the son in Proverbs 23 he is willing to "listen 3 and be wise."

...and behold
...the end of the wicked shall be destroy
...their strength in the time of trouble.
...And the Lord shall help them, and de
...them, because they trust in hi

Such a person carefully builds his life (his thoughts, his words, and his actions) on the only sure foundation: Jesus Christ. In so doing he builds to withstand any of the storms of life that might come his way.

Undoubtedly the storms will come his way.

Being a wise builder means that a man acknowledges that there will be storms, and preparing a house that will withstand them. His commitment to this building project and to the foundation is whole-hearted and not tentative, off and on, or lukewarm.