

The storyteller was very good at expanding on the truths that he had heard from the Teacher. I always enjoyed hearing his insights and weaving them into my own thoughts. Once, I listened to him as he recalled Jesus' comments on the wise and foolish builders, with emphasis on the house that was built on sand.

"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. The 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. But 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash¹."

He stressed the wisdom of Jesus as he overwhelmed the Jewish leaders who could not resist his words. He realized the power of the image that was presented. Then he told a follow-up story of his own that followed a similar path.

There once was a man who owned a very nice house, which kept him warm and safe and dry. But eventually the roof began to need repair, and it would leak when it rained. The man never concerned himself with this problem, for when the rain ended he could mop up the water as if it had never been there. As the problem got worse, he would put buckets on the floor to catch most of the leakage. Once again, when the storm was over, the buckets were taken away and the life in the house was back to normal. The man never really worried about the problem until he noticed that some of the wood in the house had begun to rot. Then he began to work very hard to put a new roof on the house. His neighbors all admired him for his diligence. But in the middle of this task the house fell to pieces underneath him.

The storyteller then offered two morals to his story:

Hard work is meaningless if it is too late to fix the problem.

And ...

A little work as a problem develops beats a lot of work on a desperate situation.

1. Matthew 7:24-29