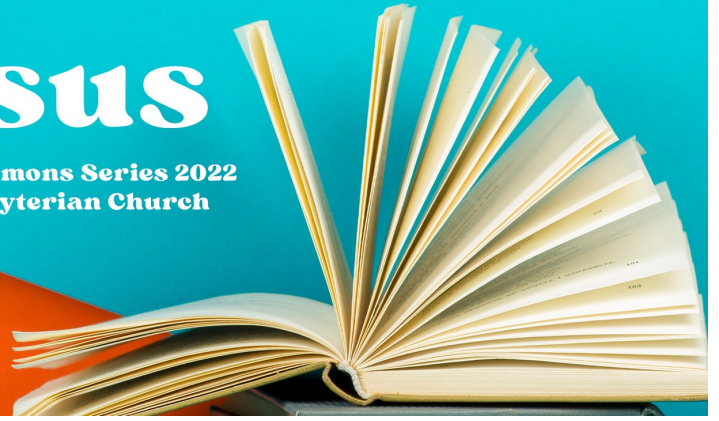


# Stories Jesus Told

Spring Sermons Series 2022  
First Presbyterian Church



Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

**Week of May 1**

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

Sermon Title: The Wise and Foolish Builders

Not long ago I sat with some dear friends, chatting over coffee. One friend wondered out loud what it would look like if we actually did what God's Word told us to do. What if we actually loved our neighbor as ourselves? What if we actually lived like there is no condemnation for those in Christ? We all agreed, that would be life-changing—radical, even. If we actually loved our neighbors as ourselves, our neighbors would be dumbfounded. And if we lived free from condemnation, we might just reach the potential that God has instilled in us. Unfortunately, that's often not the case. It's easy to sit in a coffee shop and talk about living out the words of Scripture. The difficulty is in the *doing* of these words.

Matthew 7:24 says, "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 strength of the rock foundation is not just in the wise words of God—the strength is in the *practice* of these words. - Nicole Johnston, GO!

## Questions:

1. In this parable Jesus uses the metaphor of a rock as a firm foundation for a house. What is the rock referring to spiritually? Why do you think Jesus used this metaphor? In what ways do you find it helpful or meaningful?
2. How solid does your foundation feel right now? How might it need some reinforcing? What is your response to God's invitation to build a solid foundation?
3. Where are you being challenged to put God's Word into practice?