

not do what He says. When we do such things, we produce bad fruit. When we do such things, we may claim to know Him, but He will never claim to know us.

JM 2.22-25 ~ *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

CONCLUSION – So Choose!

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency/Walkway Collapse/After Effects

Ultimately, the core mistake that caused the Hyatt Regency's walkway collapse was not simply the mistake of the GCE or Havens Steel or anyone else: it was the willingness of everyone involved to simply offload their choices to someone else.

This was, ultimately, the same mistake that was happening in 1st Century Judea, and it's the same mistake that's happening today. Countless people offload their decisions about their life and, most importantly, their souls to other people! But Christ insisted that, ultimately, it was the responsibility of the hearer to **choose: would they eat from the trees of the false teacher, or the true? Would they do the will of their teachers or of the Father in Heaven? Would they build on the sand, or on the rock?**

MT 7.24-27 ~ *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

INVITATION

#639 [EXP-NTG]
05/24/2024

How Great is its Fall
PC ___ Pchd _____

MT 7.15-27

QUESTION: Who's responsible for my soul?

KEYWORDS: Pharisees / False Prophets / Parables

TRN TO MT 7

INTRODUCTION

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/Introduction – Part 1

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/Introduction – Part 2

44 years have passed, and this remains one of the deadliest structural building collapses of all time. Over three hundred people's lives were forever changed following what was supposed to be a simple celebration: a tea dance. Even today, this event is studied by engineers and business ethics students as a case study of just how wrong construction can go. We look at it, today, and we wonder...**what happened to cause this terrible disaster to occur?**

BACKGROUND

We have been undergoing a Bible study during our Sunday morning adult classes: looking at the parables that Jesus spoke and the lessons that they teach even today. Once such parable is likely one of his most well-known: the parable of house on the rock.

MT 7.24-27 ~ *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

If you grew up associated with the church, you likely have heard this story a hundred times. You've heard it sung in children's songs, you've seen it sketched in illustrative Bibles, and you've certainly heard it preached about. As a result, it becomes a story almost purely **“religiously coded”** to us. But remember: there was a first time this story was told, and to the audience to whom our Lord was preaching, this wasn't a high and holy story for them to reflect upon—it was, instead, a normal and every-day illustration, told by an experienced carpenter, who'd likely been raised in the trade by his earthly father.

In telling this story, Jesus, the carpenter's son, was telling His audience that they were, all of them, builders: either on the rock, or on the sand. And woe to those who built their lives on the sand—for it would fall: and **how great would be its fall**. But that brings us back to the same question we

asked a moment ago about the Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse—**what happened to cause this terrible disaster to occur?** For the answer, let's look back a few verses: for this parable is no different from the rest of Scripture—to understand it, you have to understand their context—specifically, the verses before it.

BD1: The Tree and Its Fruit – Judge Them By What They

Produce

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/Construction of the Tower

This multi-million dollar contract, awarded to these multi-million dollar companies, seemed at the time to be a wise move. But, of course, that would change, dramatically, when the collapse happened.

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/The Collapse

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/Grand Jury Investigation

Ultimately, we can't help but conclude that someone had made serious mistakes, and so it doesn't surprise us that GCE would find themselves with their license revoked. If anything, some could say that got off easy. The Grand Jury looked at **the fruit of their actions**, and they clearly saw that they'd done something wrong.

MT 7.15-20 ~ *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

EX: Jesus, similarly, looked at the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees, and He saw the same evidence of their unrighteousness. They might have appeared good and Godly, but He saw their fruit—and He knew they were anything but.

MT 23.2-7 ~ *“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³ so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶ and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷ and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.*

AP: Ultimately, say what you will about the teaching of the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees, but the fruit of those teachers was bad. It didn't create faithful disciples! And today, we see the same in the world: a humanist culture that doesn't make good humans, a materialistic philosophy

that treats man as nothing more than their constituent materials, and so-called Christian teachings that are more focused with putting numbers on the board than in bringing souls to Heaven.

In much the same way that the Grand Jury could judge GCE by the results of their work, Jesus was saying that you could do the same for these false prophets: for their teachings weren't producing good disciples.

GL 5.19-24 ~ *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

BD2: What Went Wrong: Not Doing the Right Thing

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/What Went Wrong –

Part 1

DISASTER/Hyatt Regency Walkway Collapse/What Went Wrong –

Part 2

Looking back through the documents, you can start to see the error and **what went wrong—they didn't do the right thing**. The lack of care for the original design and its specifications, and the unwillingness by GCE to run the needed calculations, resulting in tragedy when ultimately, the fourth floor beams ended up bearing twice its expected (and capable load). As a result, it was really only a matter of time until disaster struck.

MT 7.21-23 ~ *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

EX: We often use this passage to reference people, today, who claim faith in Christ and don't obey Him. But while this does apply to these modern-day people who change the law of God and, instead, follow their own commandments and laws, the original application of Christ's lesson was specifically to the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees who were doing the same. They served, they healed, they taught: but they didn't do what He said. And so, as a result, they were failures: as He put it, *‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

AP: Ultimately, all the education and knowledge of the contractors didn't matter when they didn't follow it. And similarly, we cannot claim to follow Christ and not actually follow Him. We can't claim to be His disciples and