

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew

**[Long Form]**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,  
but only the one who does the will of my Father in  
heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts  
on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.  
The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine  
but does not act on them  
will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words,  
the crowds were astonished at his teaching,  
for he taught them as one having authority,  
and not as their scribes.

**[Short Form]**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,  
but only the one who does the will of my Father in  
heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts  
on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.  
The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
But it did not collapse;  
it had been set solidly on rock.”

**The Gospel of the Lord. R./ Praise to you Lord  
Jesus Christ**

### **Commentary**

This passage concludes the extensive opening discourse in Matthew’s gospel regarding an overall picture of discipleship. This is why the longer version of the passage concludes with the note about Jesus finishing these words and the crowd being astonished at his teaching. From the Beatitudes to this point, Jesus has spent much time instructing, and he concludes it all by telling his interested followers that they must put these teachings into actions. The crowd’s reaction is astonishment. Discipleship is as much about doing as it is believing. The disciple is to listen first and then act (vs. 24) upon God’s Word.

All couples getting married have one eye set on the future. So does Matthew. Just like the opening statement in this passage, Matthew frequently portrays Jesus describing the actions a disciple must undertake to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Many wedding couples will be making plans for a new home together. This passage invites consideration of a spiritual and eternal home. Beginning their marriage in the Church is the start point of a solid foundation. Couples who are wise will continue to nourish their relationship with an active faith life and commitment to the parish community.

The short form ends the passage with the strong image of setting one’s house on rock. The image of the house built upon the uncertainty of sand is omitted.