What are we practicing?

By Mark Reese

**Matthew 7: 24** "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. 25 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. 26 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. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

A lady I know has had a piano in her home for 20 year but never really practices. She has had people teaching her, has stacks of music books, and even has one of those things that keeps time. She never asked anyone to listen to her play. She never had a recital. She has not become a piano player. She’s someone with a piano and has a pile of music but doesn’t make it happen. She never got it going. She doesn’t have that intimate relationship between the music and her fingers. How sad.

We can be exactly like this in our walk with God. We have piles of books, we have taken lessons, gone to classes, listened to countless sermons, and are still just staring at our “pianos”. We don’t need more “music” and we don’t need more lessons. We need to get up and walk over and play. We need to take the first step. We need to do what we deep down already know, we need to do.

If we want to be disciples we must follow. It’s clear. All the classes and talks we have been to and all the things we know we should be doing **mean nothing**  if we never do them. Nothing. Jesus wants us to follow him. He wants us to be in a loving relationship with him. He’s not looking for historians. He’s not looking for collectors or master scribes. He’s looking for disciples.

It’s not just about knowledge it’s about love and obedience. It’s about actions and movement. Being a Christian is like being a musician - we need to practice and something beautiful happens. We need to decide to follow.

Lord thank you for the solid foundation we have in you. Give us the courage to stand up and walk the paths you have prepared for us. Forgive us for our hesitations and disobedience. Compared to all you have done for us, what you ask of us is so easy. All we need is you. Amen