**Planning to Grow**

**Preparing for the Fall**

**Matthew 7:24-29** - *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes*

**1. Accept the reality of life represented by Christ’s building analogy**

a. Everyone has the responsibility of building his/her life

b. Everyone has access to building instructions

Building life is about loving relationships…righteous relationships…where mercy, forgiveness, peacemaking, serving one another build networks of relationships that extends redemptive life to all.

Simply living life is about using people and things to bring you pleasure resulting in broken relationships, separation, aloneness, and destruction.

c. Everyone will face testing storms

d. Everyone will experience results

e. Everyone will be known for character—wise or foolish

**2. Choose the Master authority for building your life**

a. There are many authoritative voices vying for your hearing.

b. Only one voice matters—“Everyone who hears these words of mine”

**3. Practice the words of Jesus**

**4. Watch the blessed results after the storms**