

**Text:** Matthew 7:24-27

**Introduction.** Their names were Neil and Ida Shenemen. They had a comfortable pastorate in California in 1970. The Holy Spirit spoke to their hearts one day, "Move to Alaska." They sold their home and bought a motor home and drove north. They came to plant a church in Muldoon, Alaska.

- I want to bring a word of faith and courage to you today and help equip you for the remainder of your journey. Our text will help you do this!

**1. This man's story is about adversity and facing storms and weathers we do not necessarily create ourselves.**

- The text anticipates those things we can't explain and a few things we don't want! It is the story of a person who came into the ragged fringes of life but still made things work.

**2. This man's story is about the incomparable value of patiently moving forward in the right direction. His story is one of going deep in life when it would be easy to go shallow. "The house fell not because it was founded upon a rock."**

- Jesus wanted to teach us that molding the right kind of life will take time and effort. We build with patient looking at the big picture long term, not the most popular things when even Christians want something too quickly or too easily!
- It must be noted another man's story is illustrated. It was the story of a foolish man. **See v.26**...this is the story of the person who has all the resources and advice of the Master builder, but wants things done quickly!

**3. Ultimately, this is a story of right choices so what we build will outlast those storms we encounter.**

- We want relationships that last over time. We want careers that are successful over time. We want a life that stands up against the scouring wind and sands of time. We want a life that wins!