

Sermon Parable of Wise and Foolish Builders – Part 1

Matthew 7:24-27

Preached at Cloverdale 2/19/23

Background: ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 6

Many people know Him and will call on Him, but they may be disappointed and miss the Kingdom because they are not doing the will of the Father. Christ tells us and instructs us on what the will of the Father is. The foundation is not the works we do in His name, but it is in knowing Him first. Without this relationship first, our work is a violation of the law.

You can know Him and not be right with Him.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Luke: And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? ⁴⁷ Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Two different accounts, the same requirements. [How to be wise?](#)

Do more than just know about Him. Have to do what He says.

1. Gotta recognize the need to come to Him.
2. Gotta hear what He is saying to you.
3. Gotta apply or do them by faith.

Now. What does this look like in the natural?

Like a man who wants to build his house. The objective?



It's to build this house something nice, something that will last and hold its value. Something that appreciates overtime. That can be a blessing to others. Shelter, protection, my chilling place. The crib. So nice that folks drive by to check it out and admire it. That's the goal or the vision.

Before you build, the first thing is to prepare the foundation. The foundation is critical before you build the dream home and in the natural I will ensure all this is done. Let's see how it was built back in Jesus' day and how it is built today.

The process.

You're digging down to a solid seam of rock, or digging down to the solid rock. You can lay large stones side by side.

Today, concrete slab and groundbreaking, you have excavation and testing. You have to level the house, you pour concrete. Before you build the structure, you have to build the foundation. There's a process in the building of the foundation. If the concrete and the foundation is poured properly, then it's going to be strong enough to support any type of house that is built on it. You have to extend deep enough below the frost line.

But you have to look at the soil. Because soil has different properties and soil tends to shift or crumble or expand based on weather conditions. For instance. Soil based upon clay. It expands when it's saturated and it contracts when it's dry, and it's when it's very dry. It can change the position of your foundation.

What does it translate in the spiritual?

The most important part of any building is this foundation. Foundation has to be good, so the structure will endure. A good foundation avoids problems when the house settles and the structure depends on this.

Just like Jesus describes in the parable that wise people in the natural build the foundation on a rock. We need to spiritually find a rock to lay our spiritual foundation on.

The rock is Christ. The rock something firm, strong. It's hard. It's proven. Our rock is God. He never changes. His words are foundational, that the stones and the truth.

What are the spiritual steps I need to take in order to ensure I have a good foundation? I need instructions. I need the word to show me how. I need to follow the steps and I need to apply what I just learned. I need to trust that what I heard is good.

The home depends on the strength of its foundation. Because it supports the entire structure. It's all connected together. Weaknesses in the foundation can cause damage that will work its way up. The structures may look different but rest on the same foundation.

Verse 25 you will be tested but how? External and environmental changes will come against the House. The external or storms are not always mild. Sooner or later a storm big enough to beat you or take you



out is coming. It is coming. That season is coming. The season is already here. But fear not, it doesn't have to take out your house.

Some of us have already experienced some of these strong storms. The storm should have destroyed what you built, but it stood for one reason and one reason only. You had a strong foundation. A rock.

In the natural, I need to put some work in early. Some things I need to do in order to have peace before my storm comes. In the spiritual, I need to find the kind of rock Jesus is talking about.

- Exodus 17, he says. God stands on the rock.
- Numbers 20:8 -- you speak to the Rock
- Deuteronomy 32. -- He is the rock. His work is perfect. He's the rock of our salvation. The rock of others is not as our Rock.
- Judges, we see fire coming out of the rock.
- Second Samuel 22 -- we see the Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer. The God of my rock in him will I trust he is my shield.
- Again in Second Samuel -- the Lord liveth, and bless it be the rock.
- Psalm 18:46 -- the Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock of my salvation.
- He shall set me up upon a Rock and Psalm 61:2 says, lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
- Matthew 16:18. Christ says upon this rock I will build up my church. And the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it, which means the devil's coming after it. Hell will fight against it, but it's not going to blow down or destroy the house or His church. It still stands.
- I lay in Zion, a foundation of stone.
- 1 Corinthians 10:14. All did drink the same spiritual drink, for they drank from that spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.

I got no worries. I can't fall. I'm still here. My degrees didn't make me wise. My need for God and trusting in him make me wise. You gotta dig a little deeper to build a firm foundation. And then you can start to build your house.

Didn't say when the storms come that you won't face some trouble. Didn't say you wouldn't lose some shingles, trash can might be blown away, say good bye to that jungle gym in the backyard. But it does say in the word if you have a good foundation, you can still be standing despite the loss.

Look at the CBC. Then suffered some loss, been in a few strong storms. You can see the scars and damage. Still standing.

I'm still building my house. My life and my crib. A life that I'm proud of and that pleases God. When people drive by and see me, they can admire and see His glory shining on me. If I'm still standing after the storms...he gets glory from my story and He calls me a wise man.

Sermon Parable of Wise and Foolish Builders – Part 2

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Last week we discussed the wise man. They are the type of people who followed the steps in the process. They heard and understood that the foundation must be built upon a rock. It was more than an intellectual exercise. They actually applied the instructions to their life. Blessed be the Rock of our salvation. The same rock that provided water to His people in the desert is the same rock that wise people use for building material today. The same Rock that Christ built the church upon, is the same rock wise people build upon today. The same Rock of Ages is the same unchanging and unmovable rock that wise people still build upon today.

Anyone or whosoever follows the process for proper foundation building is wise. You don't have to be rich or have a bunch of degrees. The criteria for being wise is not dependent on your background but the application of the word of God by faith in your life.

I Cor 3 – we might lose some things but the foundation built upon Christ will always be there for you. Still standing. Wise people follow the building plan and they cannot lose. I need to be wise.

Today we will look at part 2 and the foolish builders.

Everyone...who doesn't apply the word of God properly is like a foolish man. Doesn't matter who you are if you don't know how to apply or if you know and don't apply the word of God correctly, you are like a foolish man.

Again, let's analyze this parable which is a natural story or example that helps us to understand a spiritual principle and application.

The foolish man builds his foundation on the sand instead of the rock.

- Both the wise man and the foolish man want the same thing. A strong house.
- Both desire a good thing....a house. Security, protection, beauty, value, comfort, identity, success, etc.
- Both start with a foundation.
- Both are successful to a degree and start out well.

- Both have a house or something they have worked for that they can enjoy and experience.
- On the outside, both look the same, in fact, the foolish man might look smarter and more blessed because he didn't have to dig as deep or work as hard to build the foundation. They may arrive at success quicker or take what seems to be the easy or quick way out.
- Both houses have to go through and face the storms.

Everything looks cool on the outside, but there should be some signs of trouble on the inside.

In the natural, a poor foundation will produce problems that will grow and be seen inside. Foundation problems and signs appear in the house.

- Certain areas have that sinking feeling.
- Cabinets and counters are separating from the wall.
- You see cracks in the wall of the floor.
- Doors stick or are hard to open or close.

Spiritual application – there was a time inside my house where I had a sinking feeling. Like I wasn't going to make it.

Things that were designed to be connected, I started to experience a separation or pulling away. Kids pulling away from me. A separation with my wife. Cracks in the finances. Unwanted pests slipping in and no peace. On the outside everything looked fine; but inside it wasn't happy together. The dream house was a house of horrors.

But don't freak out if you identify cracks and wall separation. Some of this might be normal and not a direct indication of a bad foundation. Old and new houses will have cracks as it settles on the foundation. These cracks can be fixed without extensive foundation work. The cracks in my home and separation didn't become an issue.

My point, just because you experience and see some cracks, that doesn't mean you failed. You may be able to stay on that same foundation.

The storm is the test between a wise builder and a foolish builder. The storms are the real test.

....and then came the storms. Outside elements started to beat upon the house. In the natural, a weak foundation can't support the weight of a house as it should. The house can lean and crash and be swept off the foundation. During a windstorm, the force of the wind pushes against the outside of your home. The force is passed along from your roof to the exterior walls and finally to the foundation. Homes can be damaged or destroyed when the energy from the wind is not properly transferred to the ground.

Bottomline is you won't know if you are a wise builder or not until the storms come. The storms are a test. Either you fail or you graduate and get promoted. If you can't properly transferred the wind to the rock you will be in trouble.

Here is the difference between the wise and the foolish, their houses respond differently to the storms.

What wise people build on the foundation, survives, it lasts, and the foundation remains.



Foolish people suffer loss. Not just some loss, but a great loss, in fact, they lose everything. What they worked on, what they had, what they were once proud of is gone. Does not last. Without the proper foundation, you better enjoy what you have now because it will not last.

Wise people have no expiration date on their success and their future is secure. Foolish builders have an expiration date.

The spiritual application from this parable. From this story in the natural, what can we better understand about the spiritual principles?

The difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder:

- The Rock is the foundation and is evident; the rock is missing with the foolish.
- Their work survives the storms. The storms destroyed all they had.

If they only had the Rock. If they only followed the process, it would have changed their future.

I have not always been a wise builder. I've had a few things that didn't survive the storms of life. There are relationships that fail, finances might crash, job failure, troubles. Haven't made wise decisions. Haven't always made decisions where the Rock was involved. I have been foolish at times in life.

But I have good news for us who have not always been perfect in the storm. I always looked at this as an end state with no hope after the fall. But it's not too late.

You can turn your failure into victory. You can rebuild and try again. In fact, God will allow you to face your storms on purpose so that when He brings you through it, your story will bring Him glory. Your past failure can be turned around to encourage someone else to trust in Jesus the rock.

How do I know? The Bible tells me so. He is the God of another chance. Go and sin no more.

How can I rebuild and recover? Follow the process. Follow the Rock.

- Cross
- Grave
- Sky
- Holy Spirit

The curse can be turned into a blessing. You can experience a resurrection. You can be forgiven, just accept it and get on with it and sin no more. You can still live a meaningful life. If the first house falls, the second house can be better. The same resurrection power and same word is still available, you can try and build again. You can recover from this.

The storms will come. This is a certainty in the story. But the storms and flood will not defeat you. Therefore, it seems that the foundation of Jesus and the proper application of the word, is the successful formula for standing in the midst of the storms of life. In fact, the account in Luke says the storms couldn't even shake it. I shall not I shall not be moved.

We can easily see that **the houses in the story are us.** We are the house of God. If our foundation is laid on Him, we can build upon it and know we can stand in the face of trials and storms. **But for those of us**

who hear but don't know how to apply the truth of God's word, we can still build and it can look magnificent, but when the storms come (and they will come), what we have been working and building from our own strengths and efforts, will eventually fail.

Application – hearing the word is only one step, it has no power or benefit if you don't also obey and apply the word.

- Notice the application as we see things in believer's lives that don't last or fail as a result of a storm. If there is a storm shaking us, we need only go back and place or rebuild it on the foundation of Christ. What does that mean? Start to obey and apply and the house can be saved.
- Only one group is called wise!

From Matthew Henry:

That there are many who profess that they hope to go to heaven, but despise this Rock, and build their hopes upon the sand; which is done without much pains, but it is their folly. Every thing besides Christ is sand. Some build their hopes upon their worldly prosperity, as if they were a sure token of God's favour. Others upon their external profession of religion, the privileges they enjoy, and the performances they go through in that profession, and the reputation they have got by it. They are called Christians, were baptized, go to church, hear Christ's word, say their prayers, and do nobody any harm, and, if they perish, God help a great many!

Tony Evans

Common

- House could be our lives, dreams, the church, government, society, etc.
- Both faced the same storm, COVID, trials, difficulties.

Contrast

- You don't know where you are until the storm comes.

Just because at a global or higher level we have the true foundation, doesn't mean we always operate from that same foundation when dealing with our day-to-day transactions with others, e.g., before you get ready to send that email or text to someone, are you doing it from the foundation of Christ?

Check with the Rock before you make that move.