

Building on a Solid Foundation

Illust: Wise man song built his house on the rock.

Wise man built his/her boy or girl on rock or sand.

Matt 7:24-29. Read.

Parable short and to the point and carries heavy principles of R by F, probably most imp topic in our series.

Building on the right foundation is of utmost imp, no matter what you do. That si why doing this series looking at Right by Faith – key to a saving relationship in Jesus.

Illust: In Italy just on 18 mnths ago, an earthquake flatteended a childcare center and killed and injured many pre-schoolers. The parents and community were outraged to discover poor workmanship which led to the collapse of the building and death of many.

Illust: On July 28, 1976 the worst earthquake of the 20th cent in terms of loss of life killed 240,000 people in Tangshan China. Most were villagers who lived in poorly constructed homes with weak foundations. Also true of another massive earthquake in Gansu China which registered an amazing 8.6 on rictor scale and took 200,000 lives on Dec 16, 1920.

The Pattern is the same everywhere in the world. If the quality of the building is poor, the devastation is the greatest. Weak buildings do not survive earthquakes very well.

The Same principle is true in our sp lives. Some people do well when life goes well, thrive in good times, but when storms of difficulty crash on them they fall apart. Why?

Their sp experience is built on the weak foundation of their own human abilities. As long as problems are no greater than their own ability to cope with things, all is well, on the surface anyway, but when the problems grow larger than their own inner strength, they crumble.

Without a solid foundation they cannot cope with the seismic shocks of life. When the winds of temptation and trial beat against them, they falter then crumble.

Jesus used this familiar parable that we have read about and children sing about at the end of serm on Mt. Concl by Jesus.

Jesus here shares the seriousness of the decision that we all face.

A wake up call for us.

What is house and rock, sand. Sc intrepet itself.

Building = Paul said “we are building of God” (2 Cor 5:1) earthly house eternal in heavens – referring to us. We are the house.

What is our dependance rock or sand. Our choice.

Rock = J – Texts:

Dan 2 rock represents J.

Rock that builders rejected is J.

Matt 21:44, Fall on rock we will be broken, depending on real foundation not our own resources, but if rock falls on us then as in Dan we will be made into dust. 2 options fall or be felled.

Sand = can't depend on sand.

Righteousness by promise, resolution, determination, backbone regardless of how big it is, it is still like sand. Rel leaders of J day showed no foundation.

EW: speaking of Xians who are discouraged and defeated says “Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand.” Steps to Christ.

Bible says, – whoever trusts in self is a fool. If I am strong I can fool myself into believing I am ok, but when big wind comes we are in trouble. Notice Prov and Eccl how many references there are to fools.

Matt 25 and the the 5 foolish virgins.

Foolish Xians have Sp schizophrenia eg Peter – Lord count on me, all leave but I'll hang in there. Big wind revealed what really like.

Tree in forests look both the same – but in crisis wind we see who has good foundation.

Illust: Jasna's uncle Mitch and the tree that fell in the great wind, killed a cow and its calf that was being born.

Or, we look at others and say, no we wouldn't fall or be discouraged, stand in a 1000 seas such as that, and then drown in the bath tub.

Please don't be so presumptuous. Never know what you'll do until wind comes.

When big test comes we act according to what has already been predetermined. Psychologists tell us this. Background, environment, temperament, what has gone before into our minds.

Illust: War and how soldiers act when it comes to the crunch. Military has done careful surveys of how many who were trained to kill really did, only 12% did.

Crisis reveals our premeditated decision.

House doesn't change found in crisis. If time change afterwards. Big wind reveals what we already are.

Ridiculous to think that I'll get on last train out when big winds begin to blow.

Firstly, Slap in the face of J who went to cross for me, and my response to Him should not be based on big wind, crisis or panic.

Secondly, just doesn't happen like this.

Crisis doesn't change us it reveals the found we're on. If not foundation on Scriptures then this is what will happen.

PP. EW: "The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to take away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready." {GC 594.1}

Now when tough times come, they are a blessing for they reveal to us what we are really made of – is it Jesus in me or me battling on my own. How deep my rel really is.

Lk 6:48. Text: Dug deep foundations.

Gal 2:20. (Read) Paul – It is no longer I that live but Christ liveth in me.

Illust: Elvis impersonator just like Elvis in all things, dress, talk, sing (tried never like Elvis I guess), walk, dance, hair, food etc, very sad, no personal identity. Watched doc on TV, so sad.

If our lives are not hid in Christ, then when crisis comes, we only cont to go in direction we are already going. Momentum increases.

Bib Illust: Peter – J says you'll deny me, no way he says (relying on own self sufficiency), young girl points her finger at Peter and not only does he deny J but does it with cursing and swearing. Terrible night for Pet, but great night to find out how deep found and what built on.

Now is the time to build a firm foundation on Jesus and His Word.

PP. Ellen white in 1892 said, "Let everyone who claims to believe that the Lord is soon coming search the Scriptures as never before; for Satan is determined to try every device possible to keep souls in darkness, and blind the mind to the perils of the times in which we are living."

Notice Satan uses every device possible.

Who are at risk?

PP. EW "Both old and young neglect the Bible. They do not make it their study, the rule of their life." {MYP 283.1}

Share on lack of interest for Sc bec Satan knows Sc makes us wise unto salv.

See 2 Tim 3:15.

Illust: Sitting on the fence Christianity. Church then after Sabb TV, or TV at night then morning worship. Doesn't work.

PP. EW "The best way to prevent the growth of evil is to preoccupy the soil. The greatest care and watchfulness is needed in cultivating the mind and sowing therein the precious seeds of Bible truth. The Lord, in His great mercy, has revealed to us in the Scriptures the rules of holy living." {MYP 282.1}

Don't wait till the last train leaves, too late then. "Behold today is the day of salvation" 2 Cor 6:2.

Death bed repentances put in doubt. Don't want to explode hopes or open up any wounds. But principles in this story make it clear that death bed repentance is questionable. If a person doesn't respond to love of God before facing death, then how can they make decision when person dying and can't think well at all.

Illust: Danny and Matamata man on death bed seeking God after living a life away from God all his life and I asked him to accept Jesus and prayed a prayer of forgiveness and acceptance on his behalf.

It needs to be a response to the cross and not a desperate plea in panic. God help me come up in the right res, my self, my eternity. God knows if it is panic in self-centred pride or really responding to love of God shown in J death on the cross.

What about the thief on the cross, maybe he was bap, fallen in bad company, I like to put hope in death bed repentance, but Jesus only knows when true repentance and the right motives are shown in the heart.

EW: But what is true repentance? "We often sorrow because our evil deeds bring unpleasant consequences to ourselves; but this is not repentance. Real sorrow for sin is

the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” {DA 300.3}

If my boy or girl is not won by love, nothing else will do it.

I'm so Sorry I have broken heart of my best friend.

We can Memorise chart of last days, but it won't change our foundation when big winds blow..

Jer 12:5. Humorous text. If now we can't get through small trials and get all upset when something doesn't go our way, then what about then.

If your uncomfortable jumping off the back step then don't go skydiving. If not relaxed in the bath tub, don't go scooba diving.

If I can't make it when small winds come then won't when big ones come.

God in His love allows the small winds to blow whilst there is time for us to find out after the small winds what our found or house is really made of so that we have a chance to change now whilst there is time.

Some small winds don't look very small, terminal illness, handicapped child, sudden accident, a hurtful seperation, losing your job, a church member dealing with you unlovingly, but the bumps and bruises of being born on the wrong planet can help us.

James 1:2-4. Comments.

Now is the time to build our spiritual homes, our lives on the rock. And to hide ourselves deep into the rock Jesus.

Amos 8:11,12. Panic city in last days. Too late then. Now is the day. Panic country, world. People looking for something they thought they could get at the last minute but doesn't happen that way.

No is time to build on foundation of Jesus through His Word.

Ps 119:11. “Your Word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.”

PP. EW: “Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be

revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief.” {GC 625.3}

How to read the Word? We will look at that soon, but as simple as asking God...

Jer 29:11-13. Seek God with all of heart find Him in His Word.

Thank God for all stress and strains so God reveals to me where I am at.

Matt 7:24. What does it really mean to listen to and do the sayings of Jesus?

Immediate context has the answer. How can I know?

Matt 7:21.

Doing will of God, that is, being obedient to God. Some can fake obedience. Some did it in J day, great on Sabb keeping, tithe paying, fam worship, but murder in their hearts.

Fake it on the outside, but rotten on inside, in Matt 23 Jesus said look good on outside but inside as rotten as rotten can be. Called them fools, blind guides, hypocrites, like white washed tombs that appear lovely on the outside but are on the inside full of dead men's bones.

Doing will of God not enough.

Matt 7:23 is where it is at. Knowing J is bottom line, rel with Him is bottom line – any obedience in my life comes bec I know Him. Therefore I obey.

I don't obey on my own, impossible, only genuine doing of will of God comes through knowing Him, and when we know Him as it is our privledge to know Him our life will be a life of continual obedience.

Jn 17:3. Eternal life is to know God and Christ;

1 Jn 5:11,12. Read. Right by Faith.

Faith and works. Some say have to have both to be saved, no, bec saved in faith which produces works.

Some say like two oars.

EW: Context: faith and works are like two oars when it comes to their imp ...

“If we are faithful in doing our part, in cooperating with Him, God will work through us [to do] the good pleasure of His will. But God cannot work through us if we make no effort. If we gain eternal life, we must work, and work earnestly. . . . Let us not be deceived by the oft-repeated assertion, "All you have to do is to believe." **Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally** if we [would] press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." The Christian is a man of thought and practice. His faith fixes its roots firmly in Christ. By faith and good works he keeps his spirituality strong and healthy, and his spiritual strength increases as he strives to work the works of God.” [REVIEW AND HERALD, JUNE 11, 1901.]

Obedience is the result or fruit of an abiding faith rel with Jesus.

By getting to know Him and this will result in a changed life. When big winds blow reveal who we really are.

Illust: Training camp in Eng, trained for espionage in 2nd ww, Eng and US soldiers, trusted with dangerous bus, training so vigorous, commanders trying to turn them into German soldiers, lang, thinking, culture, black bread, uniforms, until big test came, marched into enemy territory at night and went till exhausted, stopped for sleep in tents, then middle of night, awakened by lights in eyes, shouts “who are you” crucial moment, I’m Henry Smith, where you from Canada, where you going – going home to mum, not long before going home to mum in body bag. But, shouted “My namin is Einrcht Schmidt, where you from Hamburg, where going, Frankfurt, not long in Hamburg and in Frankfurt.

One day spot light on God’s people. What will your reaction be?

Who are you? If listened to sayings of Jesus – then say I am a follower of Jesus.

Where are you from, I’m just a pilgrim passing through this land,

Where are you going, to a city whose builder and foundation is God.

Then we will know the blessings f having had some small winds come across our path so that we could face the big winds.

Prayer/Challenge.