

Valley Bible Church – Parables of Jesus

Parables Lesson 18: What is your personal responsibility? Hearing/Doing

THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

Matthew 7:24-27

Luke 6:46-49

Introduction:

Thousands of people heard Jesus teach and saw Jesus perform many miracles, in fact according to Scripture only a small amount of His words and deeds are recorded. HE CREDENTIALS WERE ESTABLISHED!

Luke 4:32 says, "*and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.*"

He was the main attraction and so they came from all over Galilee, from the ten cities of Decapolis, from Jerusalem, Judea, Perea, and beyond. They came on donkeys, on horses, on camels, on foot to Capernaum crowding around Peter's house, "*pressing*" to get near Him, to hear Him, to be touched by Him, to be healed by Him.

Jesus left town and walked a half mile into the hills and still they followed and pressed Him. This is the setting for the teaching that has been titled "The Sermon on the Mount." This is the most complete and intense of Jesus message recorded and it covers a wide range of subjects. It begins in Matthew 5:2. "*And opening His mouth He {began} to teach them . . .*"

In Chapter 5:

vv. 3-12 how to be blessed (Beatitudes) and that is just the beginning

vs. 13 You are salt so be effective

vs. 14 You are light so let it shine

vs. 19 Break on law you break them all (every man is guilty)

vv. 21-22 Hating your brother is as evil as murder

vv. 23-24 Make things right with your brother before coming to God

vv. 27-28 Looking with lust is as evil as committing adultery

vv. 29-30 Sin is serious, cut of or pluck out offending member

vs. 32 Seriousness of divorce

vv. 33-37 Oaths and your word as a follower of God

vv. 38-48 A new type of love which includes enemies

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In Chapter 6:

vs. 1 How to give--in secret

vs. 5 How not to pray--with pride

vv. 9-13 How to pray--"The Disciples Prayer"

vv. 16-18 How to fast--Privately

vv. 19-21 How to save--store up treasures in heaven

vv. 24-31 How to live--don't worry about your basic needs--trust God

vs. 33 The Key to a full life--seek first God's kingdom and righteousness

In Chapter 7

vv. 1-5 Don't judge without self examination (Speak and log)

vv. 7-12 How to pray--keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking

vs. 13 The way is straight and narrow and few find it

vs. 15-23 BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

But, how do we recognize a false prophet (One who claims to be a teacher, evangelist, Jehovah's Witness, healer, voice of God, prophet?)

Jesus tells us how in these verses ending with this statement in verse 20,

"So then, you will know them by their fruits.

This is important because, as Jesus points out in verse 21, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."*

In Old Testament times you could tell a prophet by whether his predictions came true or not. In our day we weight the prophetic teaching of a person by its adherence to the Word of God.

And when you find the teacher that is true to the Scripture and cutting the Word straight what must you do then?

You must hear that teaching and you must stake you life on it.

That is the message of today's parable.

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VIEWING THE STORY Read Matthew 7:24-27

THE ACTIVE LISTENER--Verses 24

Matt. 7:24--"*Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.*"

The Picture

A wise, careful, and prudent man decides to build his dream house. He draws the plans, studies the area, picks the perfect lot, talks to people in the area, pools his money and begins to collect materials and hire help.

Then he begins to build. Since it is the only indispensable room in the house, he first builds his bath room. No? Well how about his family room? His garage? No!

He begins by digging a deep excavation through the sandy soil until he comes to bed rock. Then he pour a foundation and builds his house.

Introducing Frank Lloyd Wright

Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the most innovative architects that ever lived. Whether you have heard about him or not, you know of his creations.

He is the creator of modern casement windows, sliding glass doors, radiant heating, concrete block walls with brick facings, cantilever construction with curtain walls, indirect lighting, built in cabinetry, etc., etc., etc.

Beginning in the 1920s he designed and built the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan. (*Show pictures*) He did two unique and very costly things which brought him a lot of criticism.

He invented a new type of foundation and building called "flexible construction" (*Explain*) and he insisted on a huge decorative pool claiming it was for fire protection. In 1923 a great earthquake hit Tokyo leaving only two major structures standing. One of them was the Imperial Hotel, and they actually pumped the water from the pool to put out a major blaze as well.

THE INACTIVE LISTENER--Verse 26

Matt. 7:26 --"*And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.*"

The Picture

A foolish, careless, man decides to build his dream house. He draws the plans, studies the area, picks the perfect lot, talks to people in the area, pools his money and begins to collect materials and hire help.

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He begins to build, but here the similarity stops. He see the beautiful rolling plains, smooth and easy to build on. It doesn't say he didn't dig a foundation. He just didn't think it was necessary to dig down to the bed rock.

What he doesn't realize is that the low flat lands sandy lands are where the rains flow in the rainy season. He is building his home in a riverbed.

Architectural Class at University of Illinois

We took a field trip to St. Louis to view a collapsed office building. The contractor, in the interest of cutting costs, had shaved six inches of the depth of the foundation footings. The engineers had carefully calculated the needed footings for the buildings bulk and the contractor figured to save cement and reinforcement rod costs and arbitrarily changed the plans.

The object lesson for the students was clear without a word.

AND THE RAINS CAME--Verses 25 and 27

Matt. 7:25--"*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and {yet} it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.*

Matt. 7:27--"*And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.*"

The storms will come

Sooner or later the testing will come. Active, wise listener or foolish, unwise listener, both will be bombarded and the hidden foundation will be the difference.

One writer wrote. "*The thunder clouds gathered over the hills, the lightning tore the sky, and then, amid the crash of thunder, the flood swirling down the riverbed, a livid turbulence sweeping around both houses.*"

Flash Floods

Big Thompson Canyon above Boulder, Colorado

Inter Varsity campers did not watch storm warnings.

"Hidden Springs" in Big Tujunga Canyon above Sunland, California

People refused to leave after false alarms.

VIEWING THE STORY FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Luke 6:46--"*And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

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Matt. 7:21--"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

BASIS OF JUDGMENT

Builders are not judged on the building

They may well have used the same materials, craftsmanship, expenditure, perhaps even the same contractor. We are so worried about appearance, success, security.

God also wants excellence but He has a different definition, a different standard of judgment. Samuel was looking for a king type guy to anoint as God's man in Israel . . .

1 Sam. 16:7--*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God {sees} not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

We are judged on our choice of foundation, and OUR FOUNDATION = OUR LIFE COMMITMENT

We live in character houses we build. They may look great on the outside but what about the foundation.

Foundations don't seem necessary when things are good, but when the storms come, they are vital.

The value of the foundation of the Imperial Hotel was a moot point until the earthquake, then it was the only relevant point.

FOUNDATION AS A PRIORITY

Jesus reactions toward people

Jesus never seemed to be exercised over the sins of the people as over the stuff that was robbing Him of their attention.

Long evenings of television, no time in the Word

Time for amusements, no time to meditate

Minds filled with trivia, no room for knowing God

Care taken with worldly affairs, no storing of heavenly treasure.

Jesus is the only foundation

1 Cor. 3:11--"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

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Everything is to be in subjection to Him. Not just the bad and unprofitable, but the good and profitable as well. Everything we read, see, buy, think on needs to be brought under the control of our Lord, Jesus.

We literally, **build our lives on Jesus.**

WHY DO WE HEAR, AND NOT DO?

Now we go from teaching to meddling. But, this comes straight from my life need so its really sharing not preaching.

We don't act at once!

We need to put the Word into practice as soon as we are exposed to it. The best teachers only teach us facts, we have to apply them to our lives.

I get a message on Sunday, visit on Sunday afternoon, rest on Sunday evening, go to work on Monday, forget by Tuesday.

I read the Word today, gain important insight, don't write it down, don't meditate on it, don't apply it, its gone.

We don't like the work or the pain!

One day when I was playing high school football I noticed that the coaches who were saying things like, "No pain, no gain!" and "Pain purifies!" weren't taking part in the pain. But, its true that if were not in shape we can't play the game, even the game of Christian life.

It's easier to dig in the sand than to dig to bed rock. We can save a lot of time, money and effort. Salvation is free, but maturity isn't. Just read James chapter one.

We tend not to look ahead!

Planning for real spiritual growth takes hard work and commitment.

Harry Belefonte used to sing an old calypso song about fixing a hole in the roof. When the rain is coming in you can't get up on the roof to fix it and when it isn't raining it doesn't need to be fixed. Sometime I feel just like that about my life.

Don't get tired of trying like the people in Hidden Canyon.

There's too much to lose.

Students who don't study fail the exams.

Athletes who don't train, lose the contest.

Builders who don't dig to bed rock, experience collapse.

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But, they who build their house on the rock, Jesus Christ experience the building of a glorious character building to the glory of God.

This is the lesson to the wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matt. 7:28 The result was that when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching;

Matt. 7:29 for He was teaching them as {one} having authority, and not as their scribes.