

THE PARABLES OF JESUS, #005
A chronological Study

Jesus Said:
"The Wise and Foolish Builders"
Luke 6:46-49



*"To Him who opened His mouth in parables and
uttered things hidden since the creations of the world."
Psalm 78:2*

INTRODUCTION

The parables are the direct words of Jesus! Now, open your ears, sharpen your understanding, and hear what He has to say!

The Parable of the Wise and the Foolish Builder Luke 6:46-49

[NASB]

Jesus Said:

46 "Now why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when there was a flood, the river burst against that house and yet it could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; and the river burst against it and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

[LIT.]

Jesus Said:

46 "Now why are you calling Me Lord, Lord, and are not doing what I am saying? 47 Everyone coming to Me and hearing My words and doing them -- I shall be intimating to you whom he is like.

48 Like is he to a man building a house, who digs and deepens, and places the foundation on a rock. Now, at an inundation occurring, the river bursts through to that house, and it is not strong enough to shake it, because it is ideally built. 49 Now he who hears, and does not, is like a man building a house on the earth without a foundation, to which the river bursts through, and straightway it collapses; and the crash of that house came to be great."

Therefore:

Right from the start we need to understand that this parable is not about two houses and while Jesus characterizes this story with two builders, it's really not about them either. They are just symbols used in this little parable to get across a very important point. That point is, just who are you when you hear what Jesus has to say? It is not about those who can't, or won't hear what Jesus has to say. It is a very pointed parable, so I say again, the point is, just who are YOU when you HEAR what Jesus has to say?

When you hear Him saying, "That's not something YOU should be doing, so stop it," then what is your response to Him. This parable is about those who hear what Jesus has to say. Jesus is saying that YOU hear Him and recognize what He is saying, but for whatever reasons you have... you do not do what He has said that you hear and understand. He wants to know, from you, how you can ignore what He says to you and still call Him Lord - even Lord, Lord!

Jesus, in this parable, equates the person who calls Him Lord and is obedient to what He commands to "a man" (could be a man, woman or child) who, when he builds a house, digs down deep until he hits bedrock (living faith in Him as God and Savior) and it is there that he builds his foundation. Doing that is hard work. Every little piece required to build that home must be carried up to that location (where the water does rarely reach). He has to work hard to dig down to that bedrock. This is no little shack on the beach of a lake or along a river. This is a labor of love. This is a foundation that cannot be shaken by the flood - because of the manner in which it is built. The parable is about you and how you build your faith so that it cannot be shaken.

Then Jesus tells us the other side of the coin - the person who calls Him Lord who is not obedient to what He commands. When he builds a house, he just sets it upon the sandy beach by the water, or along the shore of the river. Obedience is just too much work. It is too demanding. I've got too many important things to do, feel, have. And when the flood comes, straightway it bursts through," and all that he has is washed away, "and the crash of that house came to be great."

WRAP-UP COMMENTARY on Those who Hear Jesus and do what He commands

An article I read recently listed 49 direct commandments that Jesus spoke in the Gospels. Foster writes: "The very first word of Jesus in His public life, recorded in Matthew

4:17, was the word "repent," which literally means to turn your life around and go in an opposite direction. Change your life!" * The article is a really great article. It points us to the list of the actual commands of Jesus and they don't turn out to be many of the things we have come to believe are the most important things we have to do in order to be faithful to His word.

Here's a sample, and I suggest you visit the link to [Foster's article](#) and read the whole thing for yourself. Matt 4:17 - Follow My example; Matt 5:11-12 - Be happy if others put you down; Matt 5:37 - Keep your word; Matt 5:44-46 - Love your enemies; Matt 7:1-3 - Don't judge others; Matt 10:28 - Don't be afraid; Matt 16:6 - Beware of performance-based religion. And that's only seven from the Gospel of Matthew.

Foster's article ends up with a "short list": Reconciliation, treating people as we would like to be treated, regard and serve all people - especially the unfortunate... resting and trusting in the goodness of God.

The end result of [first, being a Christian to start with] hearing what Jesus has to say and then doing what He has to say is the content of the first half of this parable:

Luke 6:48

"he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when there was a flood, the river burst against that house and yet it could not shake it, because it had been well built."



WRAP-UP COMMENTARY on Those who Hear Jesus and do not do what He commands

I believe that there are two categories involved with this half of Jesus' parable. The first half of the parable comes to no good end if you are not already In-Christ.

Christianity is not a "performance-based religion." You can't enter into God's Kingdom by trying to be good. The Bible is quite clear on this point from the very beginning. Sin entered the world and because of it - "no one is righteous, not even one," Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:9-20; Psalm 53:1-3. The whole point of Jesus Christ's death upon the Cross was to pay the price of redemption for a world full of sin. That redemption becomes available to you through belief in the one who made it possible - Jesus Himself.

So, here we are at the second half of the parable. And again, the parable comes to no good end if you are not already In-Christ. After all, He was talking to His disciples as His primary audience. If you are not In Christ, then please look through the Gospels and study the words of

Jesus. Look there and see that believing in Christ is the only way to become a possessor of the redemption that God offers to us. It is not about how good or bad you are, it is about us all being alienated from God because of sin... and through belief in Jesus and what He has done at the Cross we become possessors of God's redemption (redeemed, bought back through a price being paid).

This second half of the parable is primarily pointed at those who have believed in Jesus... but, hearing what Jesus has to say and command... and not doing what Jesus commands will result in a life that is spiritually unproductive and in jeopardy of continually crumbling.

Luke 6:49

"But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; and the river burst against it and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

- 1. What is the Question that Jesus asks in this parable?**
 - 2. What does Jesus mean by using the term, 'Lord, Lord'?**
 - 3. What is the point of building upon a rock foundation?**
 - 4. Who were the two types of people involved in this parable?**
 - 5. So, If you are In-Christ... What should you do?**
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FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

1. What is the Question that Jesus asks in this parable?

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

2. What does Jesus mean by using the term, 'Lord, Lord'?

Both the disciples and those who came... believing He was the Messiah. For the vast majority of those who surrounded Him that meant that they understood that as Messiah He was God's "Anointed One," the one promised in the Holy Scriptures to make all things right. Rightly understood it would mean that He had to be God. But, even if they did not understand who He really was, they still looked upon Him as their leader, teacher, and rabbi. He was a person of respect: as a leader - they should follow Him, as a teacher, they should listen to Him and learn, and as a rabbi, they should follow His commands both physically and spiritually.

3. What is the point of building upon a rock foundation?

A rock base upon which to build a foundation is, in fact, one of the most basic principles of all construction. It keeps our buildings, towers, bridges, and even our homes secure against, "the flood." In Jesus time it was also true. Galilee and Judah were areas where there was much sand, and area where the sand had been eroded down to bedrock. Many knew that when heavy rains came... things based upon the sand were often washed away. Thus, it was an obvious illustration to make Jesus' point.

4. Who were the two types of people involved in this parable?

The first type of person is the one who hears what Jesus has to say, and does what Jesus says to do, they are obedient to Him as their 'Lord.' The second type of person is the one who hears what Jesus has to say, but does not do what Jesus says to do, they are disobedient to Him, as their 'Lord.'

5. So, If you are In-Christ... are you the one who is obedient to the commands of Jesus, your 'Lord'? If you are a normal Christian (Biblically normal), then you will be constantly at war with your "old self" who wants you to be 'Lord' of your own life and not yielding to the commands of Jesus. As you grow in-Christ your obedient side should be winning more of those battles. With each "flood" you should be learning how to move your "foundation" closer to the "rock" who is Jesus Christ. If you're new at this, then Listen to Jesus, Hear what He has to command to you, and make up your mind and heart to do what He commands. Don't be washed away by the floods of sin and disobedience!

References

* [Dan Foster](#), "What Jesus Actually Said," Backyard Church, medium.com 2021

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