

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS, #005**  
**A chronological Study**

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



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

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

## **OUR PRIMARY TEXT [NASB]**

### **Luke 6:46-49**

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. He 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."

## **THE INTRODUCTION**

In order to see where Jesus is coming from for this parable, we need to back up a bit and do a short review of the chapter. Chapter 6 opens up (6:1-5) with Jesus and His disciples passing through a field of grain on a Sabbath and His disciples were picking and eating some of the grain. Some Pharisees were following them (trying to collect evidence on His actions so they could take Him to court and get rid of Him). When they saw Jesus' disciples eating the grain they went to Him and questioned Him, "Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" Jesus responded with Biblical facts concerning King David and how, on a Sabbath, the High Priest gave blessed consecrated bread to David and his men. So, if David, the anointed one to become King, was allowed to eat bread on the Sabbath, then, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath," and His disciples and He are correct in eating the grain.

Luke then moves on to Jesus, on a Sabbath (6:6-11), healing a man's withered hand and asking the Pharisees the question, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?" – And healed the man. And the Pharisees were "filled with rage."

Jesus went off by Himself (6:12-19) to pray all night and then chose His 12 Disciples and went to the crowd which had been following them and healed all those who needed healing.

With the crowd, but "turning His gaze toward His disciples," Jesus reveals "The Beatitudes," (6:20-38).

So here we see the battle between good and evil. On the one hand are the evil Pharisees, who wish to destroy God's Messiah (His Son) and the crowds of people who just want healing or an event to watch over against Jesus and His words on how to live according to God's attributes – How to live and love like God.

Jesus next tells the parable of "The Blind Guides." We covered that parable two lessons ago. If you choose to follow a blind guide – you both will fall into the pit. And Jesus covers learning to "remove the log from your eye, before judging another with a splinter in theirs." He then wraps up that part of the chapter talking about trees with good VS trees with bad fruit.

So, we find that this whole chapter is a progression from showing us who Jesus is, and the difference living according to God's nature and grace. And then we come to Jesus' parable about...

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**BUILDERS AND FOUNDATIONS**  
**"The Wise and Foolish Builders"**  
**Luke 6:46-49**

**THE TEXT:**

**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. He 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.”

### **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, the believer, and how do you respond 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, and how do you respond, when YOU HEAR what Jesus has to say – to you?

When you hear Him saying, "That's not something YOU should be doing, stop it," then what is your response to Him? 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 to do. He wants to know, from you, how you can ignore what He says to you and still call Him Lord - even Lord, Lord!

We must be careful when interpreting this parable. Jesus has just chosen His “apostles,” those whom He has specifically “Called” to that strategic position (vss 14-16a). But we must not forget or overlook vs 16b. Jesus calls “Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.” Also present that day was a great crowd of followers – some who believed He was the Christ, and many who were just “followers.” And mixed in would have been a few Pharisees who were tracking His every move.

So, Who was Jesus speaking to? Since the recording of the scriptures is for all time then Jesus’s messages were for all who hear Him with whatever hearts they have.

Therefore, there is a message for those who hear and believe and are saved (once, for all time and eternity). There is a message specifically for Judas Iscariot – who did not “listen” to what he heard. And there is a message for those like Judas Iscariot, who hear and never believe or perhaps hear... and refuse to believe. And like the Pharisees, who only heard reasons to have Jesus killed.

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 seldom 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 when it comes - because of the manner in which it is built. The parable is about you and how and... if... you build your life and 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."

Consider Jesus final words... “All that he has... is washed away” All that you think you have in Christ... is washed away... for you cannot live like He is NOT LORD of your life and expect that you will receive the benefits of faith – if there is no faith – obedience to the King, the Lord God. In the end... the ruin will be great!

We're not talking about Law or Works! We're talking about faithfully doing what Jesus tells you to do.

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## **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 (bottom of lesson) 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 – Let alone the 11 from Luke at the beginning of this lesson!

**You:**

**Love your enemies; Do good to those who hate you; Bless those who curse you; Pray for those who mistreat you; When someone hits you, offer the other side; Give to those who ask; Do not demand back what someone takes; Love**

**your enemies (Again!); Do Good; Lend and expect nothing in return; Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

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.**

**AND**

**Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the most high, for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.**

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## **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 areas 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 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.' (disobedient believers) Third are those who listen but don't hear what He has to say (Judas Iscariot). And there are those who hear what Jesus has to say, but absolutely reject what they hear (evil Pharisees, Scribes, Judas, and others).

## **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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Jeremiah 18:15  
"Don't stumble from the Ancient Path"  
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