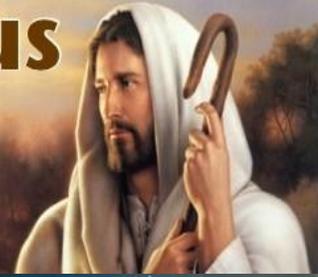


The Parables of Jesus

earthly stories with a heavenly meaning



The Parable of the Two Builders

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INTRODUCTION

Israel is naturally a land of hills and mountains, and as a result, it is subject to violent rains and sudden floods. Which reflects its security. We experience violent attacks from our Muslim Neighbors as such like a flood of attacks from all sides.



From the North we have Lebanon Turkey, and Syria; from the east we have Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Iran; from the south we are surrounded by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Libya, the rest of the African nations. So building a powerful home foundation reflects our powerful and yet secured borders with our neighbors.

The reality of The Jordan River annually swells to dangerous levels and becomes rapid and furious. The streams that run through the hills can suddenly swell with rain and spill tremendous amounts of water onto the plains below, sweeping everything before them. Houses erected within reach of these sudden floods—especially those founded on sand or other unreliable foundation—cannot stand before them. The rising stream shakes a house to its foundation and erodes away its base until it falls. Rocks are common there, however, so it is not hard to find a solid foundation.

With this in mind, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by illustrating *the benefit of obeying His words*. It is not enough to hear them; they must be obeyed. He compares a person who hears and obeys Him to a man who builds his house on a rock.

Introducing the Parable of the Two Builders (**Matthew 7:21-28**), He says, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will compare him to a wise man" (**verse 24**). He then describes this wise man as building his house, that is, *his whole life*, on the rock of genuine subjection to God. On the other hand, the disobedient use unfit material as the foundation of their lives.

In the modern Western world a person who wants to build a house (1) hires a backhoe to dig the foundation. (2) Concrete for the foundation is delivered in a cement truck. (3) Concrete blocks are lowered into the foundation with power equipment. (4) Lumber and all building materials are delivered and unloaded with ease.

(5) Wall plaster comes in sheets and roofing in bundles, which are power-lifted onto the roof. The trusses are factory made to specification and are delivered and unloaded with power equipment. In spite of all this, building a house is still a strenuous task.

By contrast, the time and energy required to build a house in ancient times was beyond anything builders in developed countries have experienced for centuries.

1. What does the foundation of rock represent?

What is our foundation?

Luke 6:48 “They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built”

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ for no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ”

Comment:

Luke describes the wise builder as digging deep and laying the foundation on a rock. The Rock on which we build is Christ Himself. In this parable, Christ teaches us the importance of doing as well as hearing.

In His description of the two builders, He judges them, not only by their care in building their houses, but also by the foundation on which they build. A rock foundation represents true understanding and right action—true conviction and commitment manifested in righteousness.

Only in obedience and dedication to a personal relationship with Christ the Rock, can we find emotional and spiritual stability.

2. What does the foundation of sand represent?;

Matthew 7:26 “**But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand”**

Comment:

Christ knew that some coming to build would be attracted to a ready-prepared level surface of sand rather than to sites that must be excavated to reach the hard and rugged rock.

Human nature often chooses what looks easy on the surface. But after the seasonal floods, representing trials and tests, such a builder would have nothing left but a heap of ruins. A sandy foundation represents empty partiality and mere external religion based on false knowledge.

The sand reflects the shifting, uncertain feelings some people possess, the only ground upon which they act. The second house, even though most impressive, stands on a shifting foundation, and is therefore **doomed to destruction**.

People whose resolves do not rest on God's help sought in prayer—people who have virtues without root—live in a dangerous reality. The Pharisees

built their hopes on external blessings and privileges, which alienated their minds from the Rock of their salvation. **Christ had to tell them that Satan, not Abraham, was their father.**

3. What do the builders represent?

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

Comment

In the wise and foolish builders, Christ describes two categories in illustrating the building of a house. Both houses appear equally attractive and substantial, but their **comparative stability differs greatly.**

In their **construction**, *the materials and labor used were similar*, and both houses appeared upright, solid, and sound. Many times, seemingly good people who are uncalled seem to build their lives well and wisely in terms of money, material possessions, and friends. .

All these things seem good to the human mind, *but their end can be disastrous without a Rock foundation.* The elect of God build their houses differently, **by daily obedience, service, overcoming, Bible study, and prayer.**

4. What do the rain, floods, and wind represent? Matthew 7:25, 27; II Samuel 2:5; Ezekiel 13:8-16; James 1:12-18.

Comment:

Floods and hurricanes can damage seemingly strong houses and destroy those less strongly built. When Christ says, "the rain descended," He compares the times of testing to the forces of a rainstorm threatening the roof of the house and the fears it creates. "The floods came"

Pictures turbulent torrents undermining walls. "The winds blew" depicts sweeping, hurricane-like winds threatening a house's walls. These combined natural forces remind us that spiritual elements try and test our spiritual houses just as God tested and punished Israel.

Sometimes these **forces** come in the way of persecution, suffering, or temptations—all of which will erode a weak foundation, but not a solid one. Christ describes the disaster descending on the house built on the sand as "great [in] its fall." By doing so, He warns us to avoid a similar end. Foolish builders should heed His warning and build on a solid Rock foundation, that of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the builder of the church that you and I. We as individuals build our lives (House) upon the Rock that is Christ Jesus. We need to do the following:

- We need to keep digging, until we reach the rocks,
- We continue digging into the rock, we do not build on the surface of the rock.
- Taking into consideration the type of digging we did before reaching the rocks, is completely different to the type of digging we do in the rock itself.

- We dig into the rock to build the pillars that would surround the house. On the edge of the house then moving inwards to corners of the inner rooms.
- My brother John built 26 wholes, then went deeper into the rock, about 6 feet into the rock.
- Then he prepared the metal frames for each whole going up about 20 feet
- Then He would bind all 26 holes with metal in the rock then he would pour cement into them.
- We would pray for each whole, taken a bible rapped well with hard nylon and insert it into the foundation.
- We go up higher and build our first roof for the basement joining all holes.
- For the inner rooms we use cement blocks but for the outer walls we use Stone cut from the Judean Mountains, leaving a gap of 2 feet then build another wall from cement blocks. After completion we pour cement between then to create un-distractable walls.