Build on the Solid Rock

Matthew 7:24-29

Christ concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a parable

In this parable He speaks of two men, two houses, two foundations and one storm

Everyone listening would, according to Jesus, fall into either one of these two scenarios

It’s an either-or situation

There’s no third category

If we hear Christ’s sayings and put them into practice, then we are like the wise person who builds a house upon a rock

To be wise is to practice sound judgment

It is to live in true reality and make the best possible choices

“Sayings” = refers to obligatory commandments, life principles

These are not optional suggestions

They are expected ways of living

We must remember with revelation and recognition there comes great responsibility

Christ is referring to people who have heard his directives and have consciously understood them

The more we know the more God expects it to show

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If we hear Christ’s sayings and neglect putting them into practice, either through willful disobedience or inattentive neglect, then we are like the foolish person who builds a house upon the sand

To be foolish means one is showing a lack of good sense

It manifest’s itself in risky behavior

In this instance, building one’s house on a sandy foundation is taking a substantial risk

Notice however, there’s nothing within the text which indicates one house is of much better construction than the other

It’s not the house so much as it is the foundation which matters most

Building a foundation into solid rock is vastly different from building a foundation into shiftable sand

Anyone with rational mental attributes and adequate physical abilities can build a life, i.e. gain education, have a vocation, acquire a home, accumulate possessions, enjoy hobbies

But the larger question always is, “what foundation are they building their life upon?”

Is it a foundation which can endure the inevitable storms this life presents?

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There is an inescapable reality upon which every person, regardless of religious beliefs totally agrees

People are not perfect and the world itself is very much imperfect

No rational, cognizant person who lives 30 years on this planet can say without reservation that throughout their entire life, up to that point in time, they have not been mistreated even once by another person or have not encountered various difficulties in life in general just because they are alive

Every single day we read in the news of tragic events which in many instances unavoidably, suddenly enter people’s lives

‘Storms” in life are absolutely inevitable

I cannot help but think of those people living in the Bahamas and the recent catastrophic results which came from hurricane Dorian

A month before it brought such unfathomable devastation, probably not one person living there ever would have thought their lives would change so radically within a few hours of time

This does not necessitate us becoming “fatalists”

Rather, we must be “realists” and make sure we’re building our lives on the right foundation

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Jesus says when the rains descended and the floods came and the winds blew upon the wise man’s house, it did not crumble into pieces since it’s foundation was in solid rock

However, when the same kind of weather conditions broke upon the foolish man’s house, it was all but obliterated since it’s foundation was in porous sand

What are some examples of a sandy foundation?

Sensuality, satisfaction, success, smartness, savings, self

What are essential components of a solid rock foundation?

The revelation of Christ, the righteousness of Christ, our relationship to Christ

So all of this has a connection to Jesus

Why are Jesus and His Words the right foundation to build your life upon?

He is your one and only Creator

He is your one and only Savior

He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge

He is absolutely trustworthy

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To build your life upon obedience to Christ’s principles is, in essence, making Him the cornerstone of your life

If you do not build your life upon Christ and His principles for living, your life will come to total ruin, either temporally or eternally

Matthew 16:24-27: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul’?”

So how do you answer this question personally?

What foundation are you presently building your life upon?

Can we say we are truly astonished with Christ’s teachings?