

Sunday Morning Message

October 6, 2019

Building Your House Upon The Rock

Text – Matthew 7:24 - 29

Congregational Reading – Matthew 7:24 - 25

Introduction

We have been examining passages from the Sermon on the Mount. This morning, we will fast forward to the very end of this sermon to see what Jesus promises to those who listen to and heed what He has to say.

Jesus concludes this Sermon on the Mount with a parable, which is an earthly illustration designed to teach us a greater spiritual truth.

[Read and explain Matthew 7:24 – 29]

v. 1 - The “sayings” that Jesus was referring to in vs. 24 and again in vs. 26, in their immediate context are the principles contained in this particular sermon, which begin in Matthew 5; but, in the broader application, we would also be correct to say that the sayings of Christ include the principles found in rest of the Bible.

The illustration that Jesus is using here is simple enough for any of us to understand. The house that is built on the stronger foundation will survive when the storms of life come. Any foundation will do when there is no wind and no water. Even a weak footing can withstand a little bit of weight. But, in order to be able to endure under the pressure of a greater burden, and in order to survive when the storm is raging, a solid foundation will be required.

Illustrate – The Three Little Pigs

The houses made of straw and sticks were not strong enough to keep the big, bad wolf out; but, the house made of bricks was solid and no matter how much the big bad wolf huffed and puffed, he could not break in.

The Old Testament Book of Psalms said something very similar to our text passage:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the

righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalm 1:1-6)

This psalm and our text both promise strength, success, and security in life to those who heed the Word of God.

How can we apply this passage and its promise to our lives:

I Salvation (You must be saved.)

The promise contained in this passage can only be completely claimed by those who are saved – those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by receiving His gift of eternal life.

Saved people receive the Holy Spirit of God when they trust Christ as Saviour, and the Spirit of God will guide the believer into all truth. He helps us to understand the Word of God and teaches us from the Scripture how we can have God's very best blessings upon our lives.

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)

II Saturation (in the Word of God)

In order to have God's best for your life, you need to listen to what He has to say. The Word of God is His voice. It is how He communicates with us today. It is how He shows us what we need to do.

Illustration – This nation at its inception was saturated in the Word of God. The founders were all people who knew the Bible very well. As a nation, we have become Bible ignorant, and thus we are ignoring the principles that it teaches, which is causing God's hand of protection and blessing to be withdrawn.

A Daily in Your Bible

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

B Faithful to Your Church

The church services are filled with Bible teaching, which will instruct you and encourage you regarding what to do.

The church is also filled with people who should be going the same direction that you are going. They, too, are listening to God's voice, and sometimes they can encourage you and further instruct you in what you should do.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

III Separation

In order to do this thing called life right, you will also have to separate from the people and philosophies that are contrary to the word of God.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

This majority in this world are not in agreement with God:

The Bible warns us to stop listening to the ungodly voices out there, so that we can better here the voice of God:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (2 Corinthians 6:17)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

This is especially true in these last days:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Perhaps the reason why so many Christians are struggling in life, and are not successful is because they are listening to the wrong voices.

IV Implementation

Cutting off the voices of this world, and tuning into the voice of God is a great start, but it is not enough. You also must put into practice what God tells you to do.

Jesus said that you need to do what He says. In fact, in the Sermon on the Plain, which is found in Luke's gospel, Jesus taught this same parable, but worded it somewhat differently, and He introduced by saying:

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." (Luke 6:46-49)

Conclusion

A few years back Superstorm Sandy came up and smacked right into the New Jersey Coast. The wind was bad enough and did a lot of damage, but the big problem was the storm surge. The ocean water raised up nearly 10 feet, and with the addition of the waves there was severe flooding. All of the barrier islands were under water, and the water even flooded the New York City Subway system.

I remember looking at the pictures of the aftermath of the storm and seeing a huge mansion in Mantoloking, NJ that had literally moved dozens of feet and was actually in the middle of the Barnegat Bay. Yet, there were other homes that were built up high on pilings that were driven down deep into the earth, and those homes came through the storm virtually untouched.

Your life will be bombarded with storms. Your marriage, your family will face the vehement winds and boisterous waves, which are the problems that come living life in this sin-cursed world. Will you house survive? It can, but only if you build your spiritual house on the rock of Jesus Christ and His Word. The choice is yours.