

Sermon Outline

“What Are You Building Your Life On?”

Luke 6:46-49 – Joshua Harris – January 16, 2011

Introduction

1. We are all building our lives on something. In these verses, Jesus is saying that our lives are like houses that we build by our choices and decisions. The foundation of the house is what we trust in, what we think will make us happy and secure.
2. Jesus is saying something terrifying in this story. He’s saying that many of us are building our lives on a foundation that will wash away. We’re building our lives on sand.
3. Most evangelical Christians aren’t scared by this story because we think we’re safe. But Jesus wasn’t talking to atheists. He was talking to his disciples and to religious people. He starts out by saying, “*Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?*” Jesus is talking to hypocrites who go to church and go through the motions of faith but who don’t obey him.

Come to Jesus

1. Jesus says that if we want to be built on rock we need to come to him. When we think of being a Christian, what is it that we are choosing—a tradition, a church, a safe, comfortable lifestyle or the familiar?
2. None of these things can save us. Being built on rock isn’t coming to a lifestyle or a tradition or a religious practice. Being built on rock means coming to the real person of Christ in faith and trust. To be built on rock means to place all our hope and faith in Jesus Christ, to believe that he alone can rescue us from God’s wrath and to believe that he alone is worthy to be your Lord.

Listen to Jesus’ Words

1. Jesus said that the man who dug down deep is the one who comes to him and listens to his words. When Jesus talks about the person who listens to his words, he is referring to more than just the red letters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. *All Scripture* is the word of God. Therefore, all of Scripture is all of Jesus speaking to us.
2. We need to bring together the pursuit of truth, theology and sound doctrine with a passionate devotion and vital relationship with the living God. In other words, we must love God with all our minds and all our hearts. There is no relationship with God apart from true knowledge about him. And all knowledge is dead apart from the pursuit of relationship with God.

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Put Jesus' Words Into Practice

1. Jesus said that the wise builder is “the one who comes to me, listens to my words and *puts them into practice.*”
2. Jesus' primary point in his teaching is this: we have no foundation if we are people who merely call him Lord but don't do what he says. We have no foundation if we know truth but don't *live it*. If we're not living it, there's no reality to it in our lives.
3. There is a warning in Jesus' words. He talks very honestly about the reality of storms. “Storms” refer to any difficulty, trial or suffering that takes something away from us. The man who hears Jesus' words but doesn't put them into practice has his house destroyed by the storm.
 - a. We can get away with living a fake Christian life for a time, but in the ultimate sense it's a disaster. In the story, the storm hits the homes of both men. Trials and trouble aren't just for “bad people.” We all face trouble and loss in this life.
 - b. Here's the humble reality of living in a fallen world. The storms of life can take everything in this world away from us—spouses, friends, money, health, jobs, people's respect, homes, healthy minds, etc.
4. There is only one thing in this universe that we can have that can never be taken away from us: the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - a. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39)

Fellowship Starters

1. On what are you building your life? In what are you placing your hope and security? Is it in things that can be taken away or in the inseparable love of God in Christ Jesus?
2. Josh exhorted us to honestly ask ourselves: when you think of being a Christian, what is it that you are choosing—a tradition, a church, a comfortable, familiar lifestyle—or Jesus Christ?

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3. Why is it important to passionately pursue both sound doctrine (i.e., truth) and devotion (i.e., an intimate relationship with Jesus)?
4. Josh shared that building your life on the rock meant putting Jesus' words into practice. Where do you need to take a simple step of obedience this year and put Jesus' words into practice?
5. Why is the love of God in Christ Jesus the only thing in your life that can never be taken away?