

Building on Sand or on Rock

Part 3 of Building a Life With Christian Ethics

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Matthew 7:24-29 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." 28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."*

What is your building being built on?

1. Building for Eternity (vs. 24-25)

What is Jesus' simple message?

- a. The "building" is your life
- b. The "rock" you build on Jesus already told us - "these sayings of Mine..." Building on the very Word of God (c.f. 1 Cor. 10:4)
- c. The "sand" is all other foundation - the world's philosophy

i. Moral Relativism

"The belief that right and wrong are not absolute values, but are personalised according to the individual, the circumstances, or cultural orientation."

Prov. 21:2 *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts."*

- With this thinking, real social reformers (like Ghandi or Mendella) aren't necessarily right, but just got their own way
- People like Hitler weren't necessarily wrong, they just didn't win

ii. Moral Absolutism

"The belief that there is a fundamental, natural law of constant values and rules that judges all persons equally, irrespective of individual circumstances or cultural differences."

- Absolute - something that applies to all peoples, at all times, and in every culture
- This is the rock that Jesus was speaking of in Matthew 7

Matt. 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Matt. 7:24 “*whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them*”

2. Building for this Age - vs. 26-27

Who is the one who builds his house upon the rock? The one who hears the Words of the Lord and does them. Who is the one who builds on the sand? The one who hears His Words but doesn't do or act upon them. He is building his life on a philosophy of the world.

Note: One of the great dangers for we who love the Scriptures is to think hearing is equivalent to doing.

- The day of testing comes for both houses (lives)
- The land turns into a river bed with water running deep and tests the foundations they were built on
- The outcome? Depends on what they built on

3. Building Under Authority - vs. 28-29

- He fed their hungry souls with the truth
- In contrast, the scribes were uninspiring, simply spewing out their knowledge and thinking
- We also must speak of Christ with authority - not our own but knowing the message comes from God!

CLOSING: Jesus told a story of the wise and foolish builders to stress the importance of continuous obedience to His words. Neal Beidleman survived the ill-fated 1996 expedition in which EIGHT CLIMBERS died on Mount Everest. Some of them had paid \$65,000 for a chance to scale the world's highest peak. In assessing what went wrong, Beidleman said, "Tragedies and disasters . . . are not the result of a single decision, a single event, or a single mistake. They are the culmination of things in your life. Something happens and it becomes a catalyst for all the things you've had at risk."

On Everest, that "something" was a raging blizzard. According to journalist Todd Burgess, "If not for the storm, the climbers may have gotten away with taking so many risks. But the storm exposed their weaknesses."

You can build your life on the sands or upon the eternal foundation of Jesus Christ. The Solid Rock or shifting sands? ...What are you building your life upon?

Questions:

1. Have you seen *moral relativism* affect our society in a big way? How or how not? How might *you* have been affected by the “sand” of the world?

(Philosophies that are not in line with the Word of God)

2. Who is the one that Jesus referred to as “foolish?” (The one who built on sand by hearing His words and not doing them). In what ways do people’s homes not withstand the rain and storms? (Through crumbling in times of trials and crisis, and ultimately, before judgment in the Day of the Lord).
3. In what way are we able to speak the truth with authority? (Not in any authority of our selves, but because we have the authority of the Word of God. We have the truth)

Prayer: “Father, thank You for saving us through Jesus Christ our Lord. As a follower of Christ, help me to build upon the foundation that is Christ. Help me to not only hear the Word, but obey it too. If there are worldly philosophies that I have been affected by, I bring them under the authority of the Word of God and confess them as errant. I want to build on the Rock, that is Christ. Thank You in Jesus’ name, amen.”