

The Parables of Jesus #13
The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders
(Lk. 6:46-49)
Bill Denton

INTRODUCTION

A. There is such a direct connection between listening and doing, and achieving success in any endeavor, that it is almost unnecessary to even discuss it

1. Almost -- because we tend to fail at this most basic life principle
2. Jesus knew about this human failure, therefore he included it in his instruction to his disciples
3. He wanted them to understand one of the keys to putting God's will to work

B. We'll look at the parable as it is found in Luke

1. Luke 6:46-49

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great. (NKJ)

2. You'll recognize this same parable is found in the sermon on the mount

C. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of what Jesus communicates in this parable

1. It is fundamental to discipleship
2. It is a story about the kind of follower that pleases the Lord
3. It is essentially a story that illustrates faith

I. THE QUESTION THAT PRECEEDS THE PARABLE

A. Luke 6:46

But why do you call Me "Lord, Lord," and do not do the things which I say? (NKJ)

1. Mal. 1:6-14

- a. look at how Israel said one thing but did another
- b. this could be a picture of many today

2. Matt 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (NKJ)

B. To appreciate the parable, we must understand the point Jesus makes

1. It is important that Jesus is our Lord
2. It is important that a servant does the will of his master
3. Therefore, if Jesus is Lord and we are his servants, then we will do his will

C. The alternative is to say that Jesus is Lord, but offer him nothing but leftovers

II. THE PARABLE

A. Remember, it is important to identify what Jesus is illustrating by a parable

1. Here, the story illustrates two men
 - a. one man was wise
 - b. one man was foolish

2. There is only one important difference between the wise and foolish
 - a. it is not in the level of desire
 - b. it is not in the quality of intent
 - c. it is not in appearances
 - d. it is not in what either man professed
 - e. it is not in the amount of energy expended
3. The difference is that one man did what the Lord instructed him to do, and the other man didn't -- he did what he wanted to do

B. Let's take the foolish man first in our study

1. This man built a house
 - a. but he built it on unstable ground -- sand
 - b. sand shifts, erodes -- everyone knows it's not solid
 - c. earthquakes can cause sandy soil to "liquify" and completely destroy anything built on it
 - d. storms can quickly wash away sandy soil leaving nothing on which a building can stand
2. The storms hit -- and they will sooner or later
 - a. "storms" here are doubtless the trials of life
 - b. such events hammer away at us and can sometimes sweep us away in its fury
3. The foolish man's house is destroyed
 - a. it was not built on a solid foundation -- "rock"
 - b. essentially, in the storm, the house depended on its own strength

C. Now let's consider the wise man

1. This man also built a house
 - a. he built it on a solid, firm foundation -- "rock"
 - b. today's huge buildings often begin far below the surface of the earth so the builders can find solid enough "rock" to serve as the foundation
 - c. everything else can move about, but the rock doesn't go anywhere

2. The storms hit this man's house too
 - a. never get the idea that Christians avoid problems, stress or trials
 - b. but this house is anchored to something strong, unmovable
 - c. it depends on a strength other than itself
3. This house stands firm
 - a. it is not swept away by the storm
 - b. it may get weather-beaten, but it's not destroyed

III. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

A. We must be concerned with the foundation we build our lives upon

1. 1 Pet 2:6-8

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ""Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ""The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and ""A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. (NKJ)

2. Eph 2:19-22

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJ)

3. 1 Cor 3:10-11

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NKJ)

B. The simple key to building on the right foundation is to obey the Lord

1. The idea that all a person has to do to please Jesus is believe on him is a totally false idea
 - a. this does not minimize the fact that we must believe on him, trust him, depend on him, etc.
 - b. nor is it encouragement toward legalism, an effort to stand justified before God on our own merit
 - c. it simply underscores the fact that true faith both believes and acts -- without both elements we are destroyed

2. The Bible plainly says that it is Christ's will that we obey him
 - a. John 15:14
You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
(NKJ)
 - b. John 14:21
He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.
(NKJ)
 - c. I Jn 5:3
For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (NKJ)

C. It is one thing to profess that Jesus is Lord, and another altogether to grant him that true place in one's life

1. Here, the Old Testament gives great insight into the problem
 - a. Ezek 33:30-32
As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, "Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD." So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them. (NKJ)

- b. here were people who said they were God's people, but hearing his word was as far as they went -- it was never practiced
2. There is great danger is self-satisfied religion that does not actually do what God instructs
 - a. Matt 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (NKJ)
 - b. note this passage immediately preceeds Matthew's record of the parable of the wise and foolish builders

CONCLUSION

A. James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (NKJ)

B. The parable illustrates a fundamental principle of discipleship

1. Is Jesus Lord?
2. If so, do you practice what he has said?
3. The difference is between being a wise builder and a foolish one

C. Invitation