

Lay The Foundation

Luke 6:46-49

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FOCAL Read Responsively Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? **(47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:** (48) 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. **(49) 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.¹**

One of the most difficult problems any pastor has is the problem of keeping himself and the Church on a sure foundation. Foundation is important – it is the most important thing. For instance, today we will dedicate the foundation of our new Sunday School annex in prayer. But how to do this? You see, if we go to the ground at the beginning of the service, pray, dedicate, then return here, the Church would be so stirred up that I'm afraid you might not concentrate on the message for today. That would be a terrible tragedy! Further, there are some members who, for physical reasons, might not be able to go out to the ground with us. The Church must move forward – together – as we go through this project. This new building is important and a wonderful step in the life of Rock Hill. As we step forward we need to do this *together*, in unison, loving the Lord Jesus Christ and one another.

¹ All texts are King James (Authorized), unless otherwise noted

Our feet will never stumble if we remember our foundation.

I'm reminded of a terrible time in my life, just a few years ago, when I literally broke my elbows. This isn't something that I'd recommend to any of you – the pain was, to say the least, exquisite! I was working at a printing company doing high speed production work. As I was loading one of the paper hoppers one day I tripped over the rails of the hopper. When I went down my elbows slammed into the concrete floor. The agony of those broken elbows literally took my breath away. When the foundation is not sure, harm always comes to the Body.

If we want to stand and remain standing, we need a *sure foundation*. How can we as humans have a sure foundation? Our Lord tells us that three things are necessary. First, you must come to Jesus. Second, once you come to Jesus you must *hear Him*. Finally, you must *put into practice* what Jesus has told you to do. Let's look at these points.

1. I Can Only Have A Good Foundation In Life If I Come To Jesus

Which brings us to the preaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus is a *Master Preacher*. No one ever spoke as He spoke. This sermon that we are looking at today has to do with the proper foundation. Jesus originally preached this sermon to *religious people*, Jewish people, many of whom were very strict keepers of the Law. Many of the listeners were Pharisees and Scribes. They frequently came to the Church of their day,

frequently offered gifts at Temple, frequently prayed and fasted. Yet Jesus warned them that their foundation, if it were wrong, would not be sufficient when the storms of life came. What is the proper foundation for life? Jesus said the *only good and eternal foundation* is ...

FOCAL Luke 6:47 **Whosoever cometh² to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them ...**

In Jesus' preaching we see two men, one who built on the good foundation and one who built on the poor foundation. I want you to notice that *both of these men came to Jesus*. The word **cometh** is a Greek word which emphasizes not just a cursory glance at someone, to seek out as a *curiosity*, but to *be drawn to or compelled to come to Jesus*. We see this word first used in the New Testament when the magi are drawn to see the Savior:

Matthew 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, (2) Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

2 Present Middle Participle of G2064, ἔρχομαι, erchomai, er'-khom-ahee, Middle voice of a primary verb (used only in the present and imperfect tenses, the others being supplied by a kindred [middle voice] word, ἐλευθόμαι eleuthomai or ἔλθω elthō; which do not otherwise occur); to *come* or *go* (in a great variety of applications, literally and figuratively): - accompany, appear, bring, come enter, fall out, go, grow, X light, X next, pass, resort, be set.

What compelled these men to seek out Jesus? Perhaps the storms of life drove them to the arms of the Savior. Perhaps the Lord drew them – for ...

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

If a person will not come to Jesus when drawn of God, then that person has *absolutely no foundation* for life. Once more, please note that *both men in this parable came to Jesus*, for both men heard Him. You cannot hear Him unless you are in His presence – that's just common sense. The Jews – Scribes and Pharisees – whom Jesus addressed *came to Jesus* but then they rejected Him. They decided that it was better to follow their own pathway to Heaven, better to look for another Door. Our Lord has said:

John 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus Christ is the *Door of Heaven*, the *Door by which we avoid Eternal Judgment*. May I say that the last time the Lord brought a great judgment on the earth, that terrible time we call the *Noahic Flood* – that the Ark of God had only *one door by which you could enter or leave*. If you didn't get onto the Ark through that one

Door you suffered the wrath of God by drowning! The second great judgment we see in the Scripture was when *God spoke to Egypt through Moses*. Pharaoh had a choice – follow his own door, or listen to the Prophet of God. Pharaoh refused to hear God's Word, refused to let the children of Israel go, and brought the wrath of God on all of Egypt.

When God provides the Door to avoid judgment it is a good idea to heed that Door. Is your hope in Jesus? It's like that old song which says:

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.³**

Israel saw the Door of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, standing before them. Yet they chose instead to keep the rituals of religion rather than seek a relationship with the One Who made them. God does not honor those who will not come to Him through Christ. Without Christ the Lord told Israel:

Amos 5:21-26 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. (22) Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I

³ Words: Edward Mote, circa 1834; first appeared in Mote's Hymns of Praise, 1836

will not accept [them]: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. (23) Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. (24) But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. (25) Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? (26) But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

When a person approaches God outside of Christ the Lord will not hear him. Such a life is without foundation, without the blessing of the Creator. Jesus Christ is the foundation for life, abundant life, joyous life. Our Lord has said:

John 10:10 ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

Jesus Christ came that we might have life, **abundant life**. If you will not come to Him, you have no foundation in your life. You are not like the *wise man* of the Lord's sermon, nor are you like the *foolish* man. Both men had a foundation, both came to Jesus – but if you have not come to Jesus you have no foundation at all!

Pastor Ray Pritchard writes:

“In the 19th century the greatest tightrope walker in the world was a man named Charles Blondin. On June 30, 1859 he became the first man in history to walk on a tightrope across Niagara Falls. Over 25,000 people gathered to watch him walk 1100 feet suspended on a tiny rope 160 feet above the raging waters. He worked without a net or safety harness of any kind. The slightest slip would prove fatal. When he safely reached the Canadian side, the crowd burst into a mighty roar.

In the days that followed he would walk across the Falls many times. Once he walked across on stilts, another time he took a chair and a stove with him and sat down midway across, cooked an omelet and ate it. Once he carried his manager across riding piggyback. And once he pushed a wheelbarrow across loaded with 350 pounds of cement. On one occasion he asked the cheering spectators if they thought he could push a man across sitting in a wheelbarrow. A mighty roar of approval rose from the crowd. Spying a man cheering loudly, he asked, “Sir, do you think I could safely carry you across in this wheelbarrow?” “Yes, of course.” “Get in,” the Great Blondin replied with a smile. The man refused.

That makes it clear, doesn't it? It's one thing to believe a man can walk across by himself. It's another thing to believe he could safely carry you across. But it's something else entirely to get into the wheelbarrow yourself. That's the difference between knowledge, conviction, and commitment.”⁴

4 From his sermon, *What is Saving Faith?*

Will you not give yourselves to Jesus Christ? Will you not come unto God by Jesus? These words are true for you, dear one, and remain true:

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Are you **saved to the uttermost**? You are, if you have come to Christ in faith, believing that He died for you. If you have not come to Him then today is the day of your salvation – if you will but come!

2. I Can Only Have A Good Foundation In Life If, After Coming To Jesus, I Hear His Words And Do Them

FOCAL Luke 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth⁵ my sayings and doeth⁶ them

Once you are saved by faith in Christ, your eternity is assured. This is taught over and over again in the Scripture. For instance:

5 Present Active Participle of G191, ἀκούω, akouō, ak-oo'-o, A primary verb; to *hear* (in various senses): - give (in the) audience (of), come (to the ears), ([shall]) hear (-er, -ken), be noised, be reported, understand.

6 Present Active Participle of G191, ἀκούω, akouō, ak-oo'-o, A primary verb; to *hear* (in various senses): - give (in the) audience (of), come (to the ears), ([shall]) hear (-er, -ken), be noised, be reported, understand.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

He that hath the Son hath life. You have eternal life if you have believed on Jesus Christ. But Beloved, we still must live out our lives in this confused and sinful world. In this world you are going to have voices and influences all about to listen to. If you turn on your television you see and hear a literal barrage of noise telling you what is right and wrong. Yet – do they really know what is best? Is what they promote the truth? Jesus tells us that we are supposed to come to Him – then **hear His words and do them**.

Once you enter the Christian way of life there is a **hearing** and a **doing**. These two words are *Present Active Participles* in the Greek, and imply *continuous action*. Jesus says, **keep on hearing and keep on doing**. Both the wise man and the foolish man of the sermon *heard* Jesus, but only the wise man *kept on hearing Jesus*. The foolish man, we read:

FOCAL Luke 6:49 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.

He **heard** the word of the Lord but didn't put it into

practice. He followed the Master from afar, but never seized on that which the Savior taught – and suffered the consequences of it. We see this illustrated frequently in the Scriptures. One of my favorite passages is found in:

Mark 4:35-37 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. [36] And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. [37] And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

For years I read this story and concentrated on the storm that came, and the disciples crying out to the Lord. How terrible that was – the boat was nearly full of water when Jesus stepped out and said “**Peace, be still**”, and the wind obeyed His command. One day I was reading this and the Lord touched my heart and said,

What about the “other little ships”?

Read verse 36 again:

Mark 4:35-37 ... they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

Mark is the only Gospel writer who mentions the "other little ships" that followed after Jesus. The disciples, true

followers of Christ, all got in the big ship, but others followed after Jesus in "other little ships". Those who followed in the "other little ships" are believers who *followed the Lord from afar*. Oh, how dangerous to follow the Lord from afar! To hear His Word, then get on **another little ship** rather than the one He is on. Again, that old song says:

**When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.³**

Listen Beloved – trials come on us all. The unbeliever has trials, the believer out of fellowship has trials, and the *committed Christian* has trials. Trials – the storm – came on the disciples in the ship *with* Jesus and on those **other little ships**. If the disciples in the boat with Jesus were terrified, think of how frightened those in ships *without Jesus* were. You and I must not only **hear** His Word, but we must also **do it**. What a wonderful Hiding Place our Lord is! The Psalmist said:

Psalms 32:5-7 "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. [6] For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. [7] Thou art

my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah."

Illustrate A minister was talking to a professing Christian and asked him if he was active in his local Church. The man responded, "No, but the dying thief wasn't active in a local Church and he was still accepted". The minister then asked if the man had been baptized. He said, "No, but the dying thief wasn't baptized, and still he went to Heaven". The minister then asked if the man had partaken of the Lord's Table. The man said, "No, but the dying thief never took of the Lord's Table, and still went to Heaven". The minister said, "**The difference between the dying thief and you is that the thief was dying in his belief, and you are dead in your belief**". The faith that saves is the faith that obeys! The faith that is victorious is the faith that stays close to Jesus.

Jesus calls every Saint to not only **hear His Word, but also to walk in it**. Sunday School is a place where we **hear the Word of the Lord**, and a place where we learn to **do that Word as well**. Listen My Beloved – if the Word is not put into practice, it does no good. We must not only hear, but also do that which we hear. Look at our Master's Words once more:

FOCAL Luke 6:46-48 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (47)

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew

you to whom he is like: (48) 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.

If your life is **founded on the Rock that is Christ** then, no matter what storms may come, you will stand. We must hear the Word of the Lord, and we must do the Word of the Lord – and we must share the Word of the Lord with all. Our prayer must be that this facility be a tool whereby we can reach others for Jesus. Let us pray that God will use this facility and this His Church to lead others to Jesus, then to teach Christians to *live the Word of Christ* – to do that Word in their lives.

May God touch your hearts with these words.

Dedication Of The Foundation

We're gathered here today to honor the Lord as we break ground for the Sunday School annex.

Congregation **1 Chronicles 29:11-13** **Thine, O LORD, [is] the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all [that is] in the heaven and in the earth [is thine]; thine [is] the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. (12) Both riches and honor [come] of thee,**

and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand [is] power and might; and in thine hand [it is] to make great, and to give strength unto all. (13) Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

Everything we have or hope to be comes from the Lord. He alone will make this project a success. Everything that we do, we do to the glory of God our Father in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Our prayer today is that the foundation of this Church remain the Word of God – both the study and the *doing* of that Word. Our prayer is that this facility be used to further the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of God. Our prayer is that we will continue to move forward together – together with God and together with one another – for His Name's Sake.

I have asked the Deacons of this Church to read from the Holy Scripture (Deacons now read).

Would each person, as the Lord so leads, pray with us. Please pray that God will be honored in this project, and that souls may be saved for the glory of His Name.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.



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