

Remnant Life Church  
September 18, 2016  
**The Parables of Jesus:**  
**How's Your Foundation?**  
Matthew 7:24-28

- There are several of you here this morning and perhaps some listening on-line who have experience in building and construction
  - I do not have that experience
  - When I put a tool belt on I have been told it is for visual effect only!
  - But even as little as I know I am aware that for a structure to be built straight and strong it begins with a firm and level foundation
- This morning we look at the parable of the wise and foolish builders as told by Jesus in [Matthew 7](#)
- **READ – [Matthew 7:24-28](#)**
- This parable closes the Sermon on the Mount that begins in [Matthew 5](#) with the Beatitudes
- Jesus demonstrates again His greatness as a teacher
  - The focus of the teaching is listening to Jesus' words and doing them or only hearing them and doing nothing
  - Why does Jesus use the example of rain, water, and wind?
    - Palestine was at that time, and still is today, a land of hills and valleys
    - Subject to sudden and violent rain storms
      - + Just like the Sea of Galilee (Jesus calming the storm; walking on the water)
    - The Jordan river – connects the Sea of Galilee in the north to the Dead Sea in the south - the principle moving water source, was frequently flooded and we even read that in other parts of the Bible ([Joshua 3](#))
    - Other streams that would be dry for major parts of the year could suddenly become filled with fast moving water that would sweep down onto the plains
    - Anything in the way of this rushing water would be swept away
    - Especially a structure that was built on the sand deposits found throughout the area
    - The fast water would erode the base of sand, the house would totter, and fall into the current to be carried away
  - No visualization could have been more vivid for those listening as they had all seen this happen many times
  - They clearly understood that a house built on the sand was not secure, the one built on the rock however could withstand the storms
- Jesus calls the man who ignores His words a fool and the one who does them wise
- Jesus is speaking of the absolute necessity to build your life on the right kind of foundation
  - The foundation is what holds everything together

- The building can be the most beautiful built but a bad foundation will ruin it
- The Tower of Pisa in Italy is a beautiful example of 10<sup>th</sup> century architecture but also the world's greatest example of the importance of a solid foundation
  - Construction began in 1173 and was not completed for another 199 years
  - 183 feet tall with 8 foot thick walls at the base
  - Reopened just a few years ago after extensive work was done to stabilize the tower and bring it back a few degrees toward vertical
  - The top of the belfry today slants 12'10" from vertical back from its furthest point of 16 feet
- How do we avoid the tower of our life falling victim to a bad foundation?
  - Is it too late?
  - Does there come a point that you cannot correct it?
- The two main characters of Jesus' parable are the 2 builders
  - In our lives today there are only 2 options to choose from when determining what the foundation of our life will be built on
    - Trusting in Jesus and obeying His Word in our life
    - Or not
    - God Himself commanded the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration to listen to Jesus (**Mark 9:7**)
    - There is no door #3 regardless of what the world tells you
  - Nothing of Eastern mysticism, Zen Buddhism, New Age philosophies, or any other study of self-actualization striving for enlightenment will be of any value or save your soul.
    - The lives built on that foundation will crumble when the storms come
  - The foolish builder was still a good builder; the house got built, and he did things right from the outside but the foundation was weak
    - Activity should never be confused with righteousness or godliness
    - There are many who are busy doing the things of God without knowing Him
    - (**Matt 7:21-23**) *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*
    - The most costly service to God and strenuous labors that appear incredible to everyone else will not save you!
  - Another element of the bad foundation is pride
    - This must be battled by every person every day
    - If you deny that to yourself then you are already losing the battle
      - + **Luke 18:14** - *...For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted*
      - + **Rom 12:3** - *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.*

- **Why** do you do the things you do for the church, for others, or for God?
  - Is it to be recognized? What if you don't get ANY credit or recognition would you still do it?
- The house built on sand looked just as good as the one on the rocks until what happened?
    - The storms came
    - Some don't see many storms in this life but that does not lessen the need for Jesus
    - Everyone will be held accountable for their lives and for some that will be the greatest storm that will sweep them away for all eternity
    - Only the foundation of Jesus Christ will secure us in that time
- What does that solid foundation look like in our everyday lives?
  - How do we know it is solid?
    - By the fruit your life produces
    - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, (patience; endurance); kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)*
    - This is what your house, your life, should look like
  - I asked earlier is it ever too late to change your foundation?
    - The answer is NO!
    - You can begin right now to reestablish or repair the foundation of your life
    - First by accepting Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior
    - Second by practicing and actively applying the fruits of the Spirit into how you live