

Leaning Towers of Christians

Series: Parables – Vignettes of Spiritual Truth

Matthew 7:24-29 – Houses Built on Rock and Sand

Trust and obedience are paramount to true faith.

- Wise Man = Member of the Christian community – hears and obeys
- Foolish Man = Member of the Christian community – hears only
- House – Our Life
- The Kinds of Ground = What we do with God's word, what we trust
- The Rock = Trusting Jesus and obeying Him
- The Sand = Not doing what God has called us to
- The Storm: rain, wind, floods = God's Judgement
- The Falling Building = Destruction

Obedience is the evidence of your faith.

Romans 10:9

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- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 1 John 1:6-7
- 1 John 5:2-4
- James 2:14-17, 22
- John 14:23
- Psalm 128:1
- Titus 3:4-8

- Why do you think Jesus connects love for Him and obedience of His word?

- How can your love for Christ through obedience authenticate Christianity to non-believers? Do you have a personal example from your life?

2. Read John 8:31-32. What does it mean to abide in Christ? (See John 15:5, 9-10.)

- Jesus says, "the truth will set you free." Free to do what? How does obeying Christ make you free?
- Like the wise man who built his house upon the rock, how can a daily life lived in obedience to Christ prepare you for the storms (trials) of life?

3. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Jesus is our greatest example of humble obedience. What was the result of Jesus' obedience?

- What is one area in your life where obedience could be more consistent?

Taking It Home – Prayer

- Missionary of the Week: This week pray for Orange County Rescue Mission as they meet physical needs and share Christ in our community.
- Pray for one another to live a life of love for Christ.

Matthew 7:19-20

1. Do you need to place your life on the rock of Jesus?
2. Where in my life am I not obeying God?
3. Is Jesus your authority or your fire insurance?

Matthew 7:28-29

1. What does your foundation look like?

Obedience is the evidence of your faith.

He gives us the Holy Spirit so we can live in obedience to Him.

Are you astonished?

From Sunday's message...

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

Getting Connected

1. Reflecting on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish builders, who is the wisest person you know? What is something you've learned from them that you've applied to your life?
2. Jesus declared in Matthew 7:24 that whoever obeys His teaching is wise. John Calvin wrote, "True knowledge of God is born out of obedience." What do you think about this statement? What have you learned about God through obedience?
3. Review our September Bible verse: Romans 1:16
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Going Further – Growing in Christ

1. Andrew Murray says, "The starting point and the goal of our Christian life is obedience." Through our obedience comes freedom and fulfillment.
 - Read John 14:21. If we say we love God, what will be the result according to this verse?