

BUILT TO LAST

GOD'S DESIGN FOR FAMILY



What do families do when a nation hurts?

Is there a way through confusion?

How can followers of Jesus respond?

BUILT TO LAST

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

BUILT TO LAST



Ukrainian woman stabbed to death in unprovoked attack while riding train in North Carolina: Police

Iryna Zarutska, 23, sustained knife wounds and was pronounced dead at the scene.

By [Megan Forrester](#)

September 8, 2025, 11:25 AM



<https://abcnews.go.com/US/ukrainian-woman-stabbed-death-train-attack/story?id=125360100>

NEW YORK POST

Haunting video shows homeless ex-con allegedly kill Ukrainian refugee on North Carolina train

By [Samantha Olander](#)

Published Sep. 6, 2025, 11:31 a.m. ET

<https://nypost.com/2025/09/06/us-news/ukrainian-refugees-stabbing-death-on-north-carolina-train-caught-on-video/>

The brutal killing of Iryna Zarutska occurred on **August 22, 2025**, at the East/West Boulevard light rail station in Charlotte, North Carolina.

BUILT TO LAST

Annunciation Catholic School shooting victims identified as 8-year-old boy who loved family and sports and 'joyful' 10-year-old girl

Fletcher Merkel's father asked that his son be remembered "for the person he was and not the act that ended his life." Harper Moyski's parents said her "light will always shine through us."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/annunciation-catholic-school-shooting-victim-identified-rcna227876>



Minnesota school shooting gunman kills 2 children, injures 17 others during Catholic Mass

A shooting was reported Wednesday at the Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. Police confirm 17 injured, two children dead. The suspect took his own life in the rear of the church.

<https://www.foxnews.com/live-news/shooting-confirmed-at-minneapolis-catholic-school-shooter-contained>

On **August 27, 2025**, a mass shooting occurred at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

BUILT TO LAST



'Mass chaos': How the shooting of Charlie Kirk and the race to catch his assassin unfolded

The high-profile and controversial conservative activist came to Utah Valley University to engage students in debate. A gunman killed him, leading to a rush of chaos and a 33-hour manhunt.

Rick Jervis and Chris Kenning USA TODAY

Sept. 13, 2025, 6:04 a.m. ET

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/09/13/charlie-kirk-shooting-manhunt-tyler-robinson/86114204007/>



What to know about the killing of Charlie Kirk, the co-founder of Turning Point USA

<https://apnews.com/article/charlie-kirk-shot-utah-turning-point-e771e3967d5a6024f7cf84d5e0228fed>

On **September 10, 2025**, Charlie Kirk was fatally shot while addressing an audience on the campus of Utah Valley University.

BUILT TO LAST

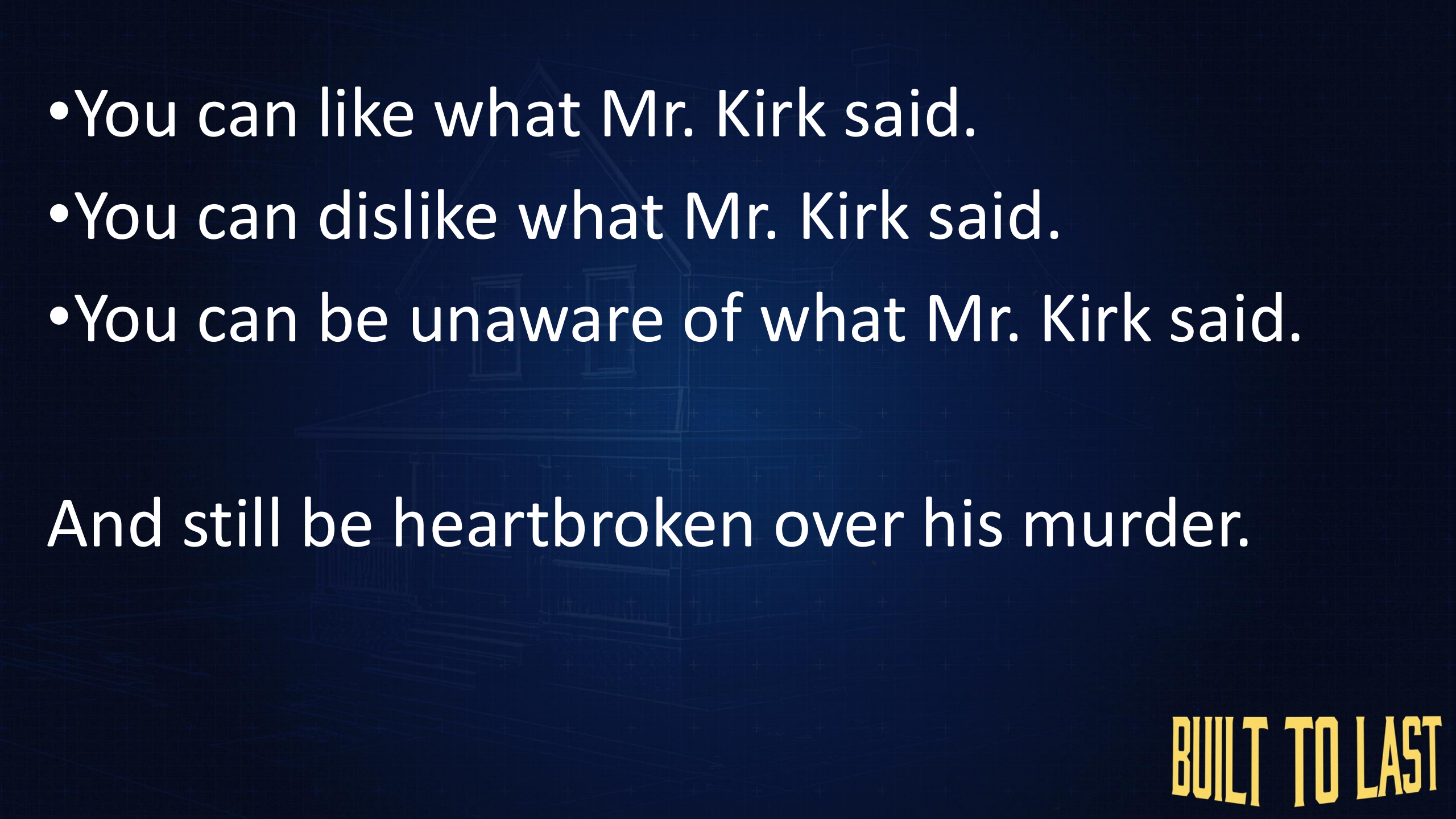
By all accounts from those who knew him...

- Charlie Kirk was a follower of Jesus
- Charlie Kirk was a loving husband and follower
- Charlie Kirk was smart and bold in sharing his beliefs
- Charlie Kirk was not perfect nor sinless

As followers of Jesus today...

- We should remember Charlie Kirk's life and work
- We should worship Charlie Kirk's Savior

BUILT TO LAST

- 
- You can like what Mr. Kirk said.
 - You can dislike what Mr. Kirk said.
 - You can be unaware of what Mr. Kirk said.

And still be heartbroken over his murder.

BUILT TO LAST

When a nation is hurting and angry and confused,
people from all social and political camps want to
fight, they want to defeat whatever groups they
deem to be the “enemy.”

What should followers of Jesus do in these days?
How can God use us to make this world better?

BUILT TO LAST



Matthew 14:1-33

BUILT TO LAST

At that time Herod [Antipas] the tetrarch [ruler of Galilee and Peraea] heard the news about Jesus, and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” Matthew 14:1-2

BUILT TO LAST

For when Herod [Antipas] had John arrested,
he bound him and put him in [Machaerus]
prison because of Herodias, the wife of his
[half] brother [Herod] Philip.

Matthew 14:3

BUILT TO LAST

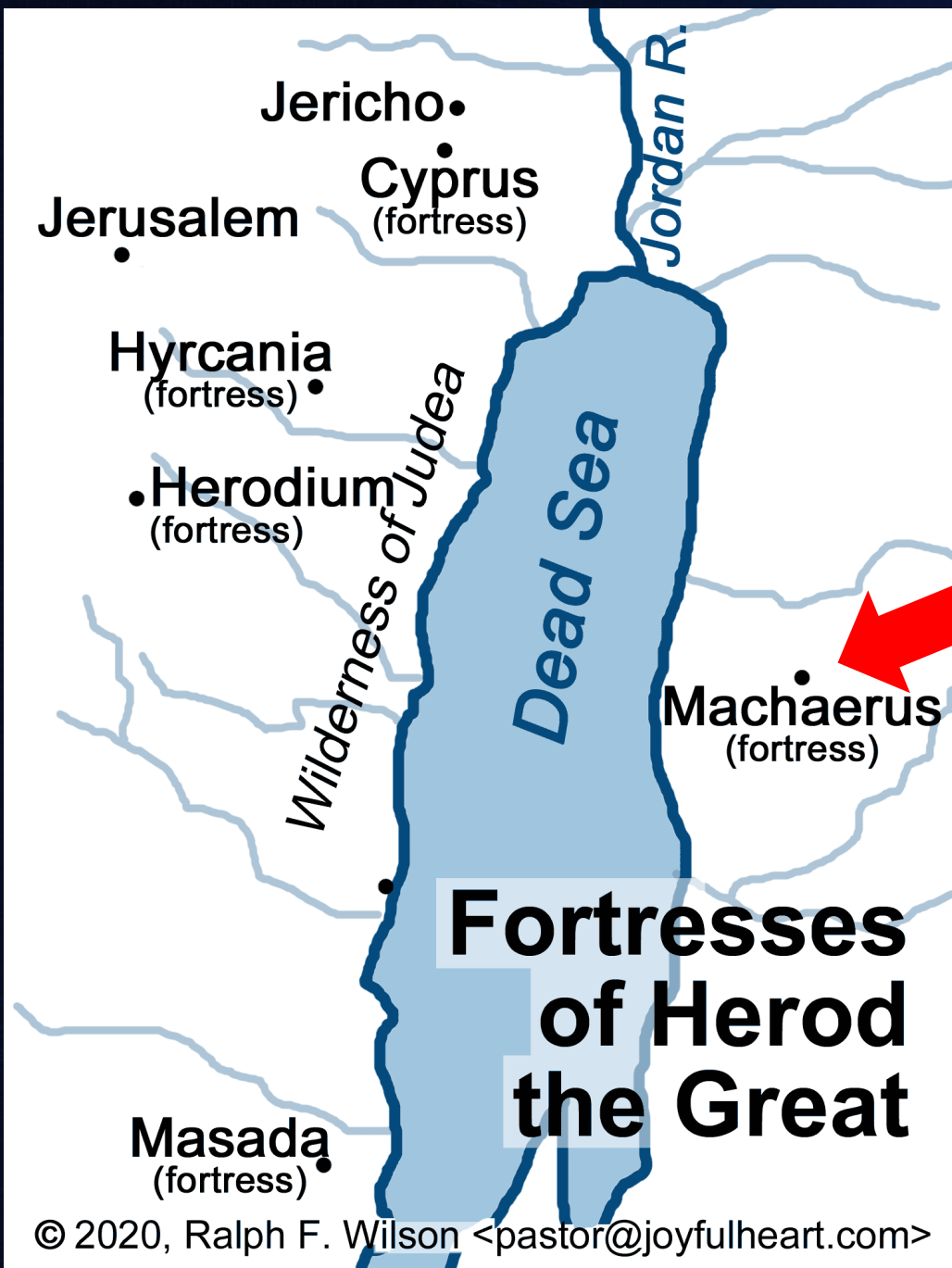
ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



Map of Ancient Galilee





Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ordered the arrest of John the Baptist and imprisoned him in Machaerus.

<https://www.posnetwork.net/unveiling-machaerus-exploring-history-and-mystery-through-the-machaerus-map/>

BUILT TO LAST

For John had been saying to him [Herod Antipas],
“It is not lawful for you to have her [Herodias].”
Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he
feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a
prophet. Matthew 14:4-5

- John the Baptizer had been thrown into prison
because he called the ruling powers to repent of
sin and turn away from evil.

BUILT TO LAST

But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias [Salome] danced before them and pleased Herod [Antipas], so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. Matthew 14:6-9

BUILT TO LAST

He [Herod Antipas] sent and had John beheaded in the [Machaerus] prison [dungeon]. And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl [Salome], and she brought it to her mother [Herodias]. His [John's] disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported [John's death] to Jesus.

Matthew 14:10-12

BUILT TO LAST

Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; Matthew 14:13a

- Jesus, in His time of grief, got away from the crowds to spend time in prayer, bearing His heart to the Heavenly Father.

BUILT TO LAST

Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

Matthew 14:13

- Every generation is filled with hurting people who need healing and hope from the Savior.

BUILT TO LAST

When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

- Even in His grief and loss, Jesus noticed the pain and hunger of the crowds and chose to care for them.
- Instead of ignoring the crowd, instead of fighting or hating or attacking, Jesus chose to meet needs, to bring healing instead of more pain.

BUILT TO LAST

When it was evening, the disciples came to Him [Jesus] and said, “This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Matthew 14:15

- When faced with the pain of our culture, how will today's followers of Jesus respond?

BUILT TO LAST

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



Map of Ancient Galilee



But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!” They said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” And He said, “Bring them here to Me.”

Matthew 14:16-18

- When the world around us is desperately hurting, will the followers of Jesus care enough to help?
- Will we trust that God can and will use whatever resources we have been given for His glory?

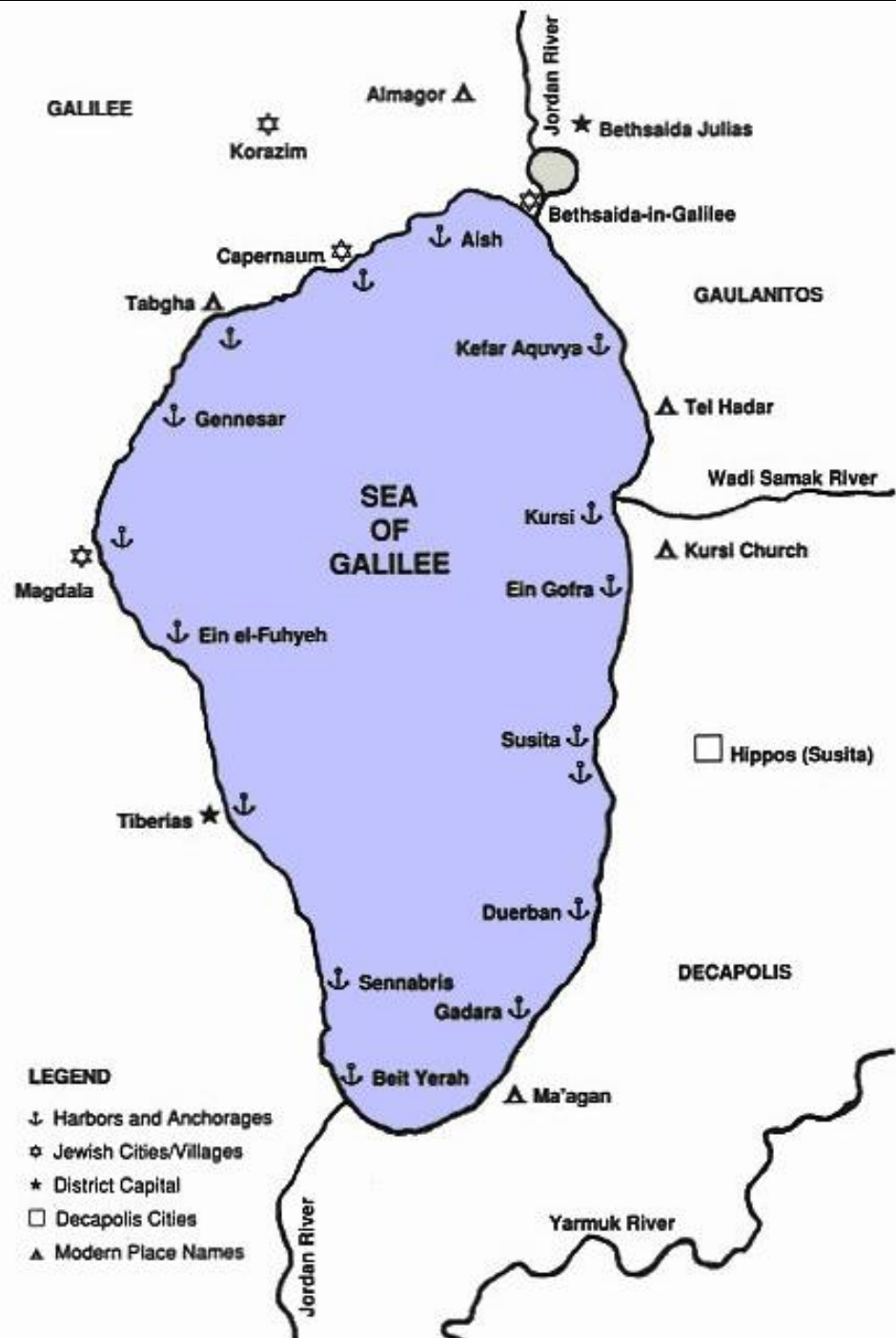
BUILT TO LAST

Ordering the people to sit down on the grass [at Bethsaida], He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children. Matthew 14:19-21

BUILT TO LAST

Immediately He [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while He sent the crowds away. After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. But the boat was already a long distance from the land [3-4 miles according to John 6:19], battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. Matthew 14:22-24

BUILT TO LAST



Sea of Galilee

The lowest freshwater lake on earth at approx. 700 feet below sea level.

8 miles wide, 13 miles long, 140 feet deep

Also known as: Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, Lake Tiberias

Its main source is the Jordan River which flows through it from north to south.

The majority (70-80%) of Jesus' earthly ministry took place near here.

BUILT TO LAST



BUILT TO LAST

And in the fourth watch of the night [3-6 am] He [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. Matthew 14:25-26

- How quickly do we forget about the power and provision of our Savior?

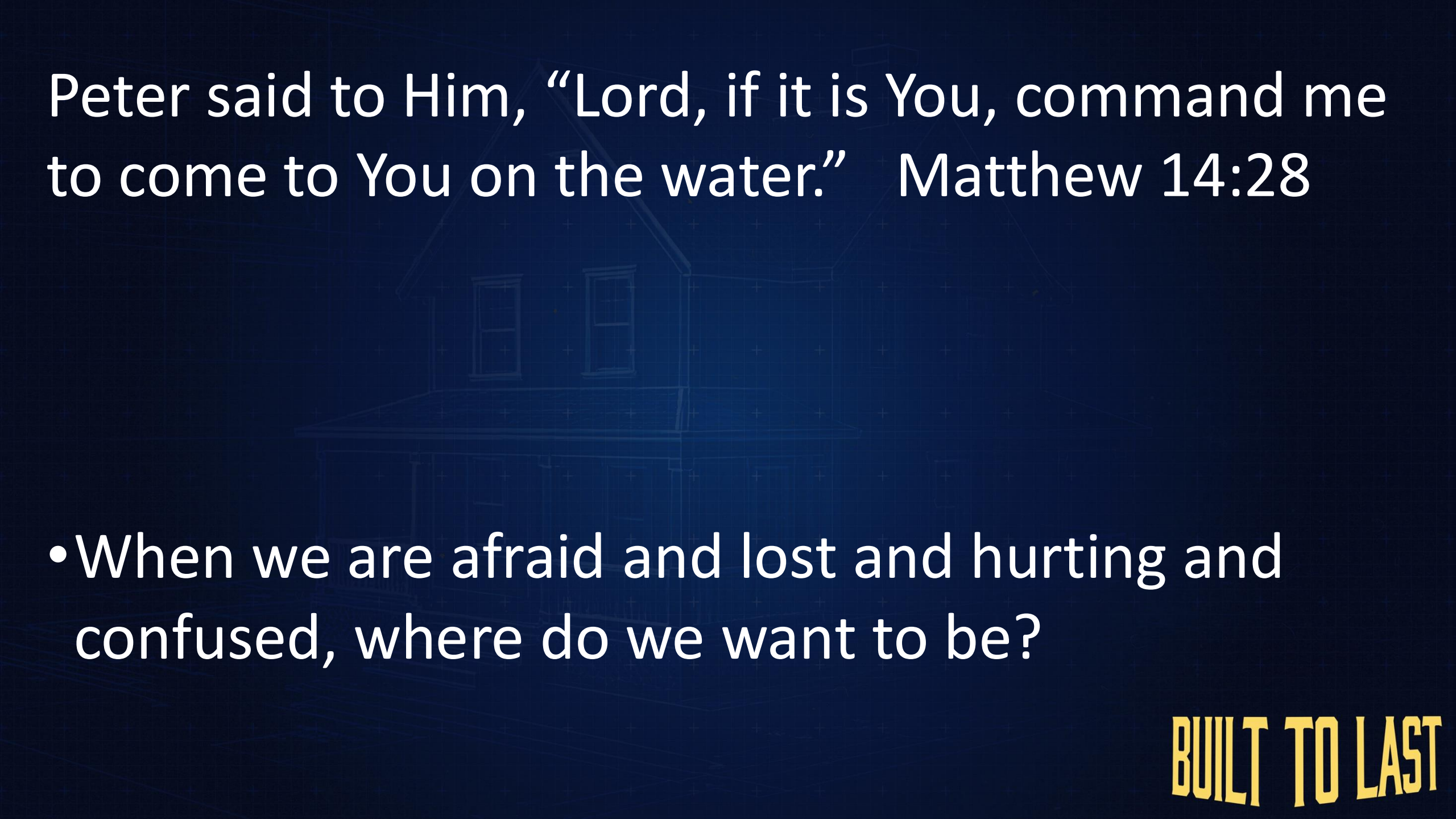
BUILT TO LAST

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Matthew 14:27

- Immediately is the timeline of Jesus' love.
- What did Jesus offer? Himself.

BUILT TO LAST



Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” Matthew 14:28

- When we are afraid and lost and hurting and confused, where do we want to be?

BUILT TO LAST

And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:29-31

- Do we doubt the power and grace of Jesus today?

BUILT TO LAST

When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!” Matthew 14:32-33

What cannot erase the identity and majesty of Jesus?

- Storms
- Fear
- Doubt
- Unbelief

BUILT TO LAST

What do we do when we confront evil?

Lessons from the John the Baptizer

- Confess Jesus the Messiah as Savior (John 1:29)
- Call others to repentance and salvation (Matthew 3:1-2)
- Check our own hearts for sin and pride
- Learn and understand biblical truth and righteousness
- Speak up for righteousness, even to those in power (Matthew 14:4)
- Understand the costs of speaking out (Matthew 14:10)
- Use our faith journey to follow and honor the Savior
- Use our faith journey to inspire others

BUILT TO LAST

What do we do while grieving the world's evil?

Lessons from Jesus the Messiah

- Get alone and pray (Matthew 14:13)
- Cry out to the Heavenly Father (Matthew 14:13)
- Choose to notice the hurting world, not ignore it (Matthew 14:14)
- Choose to offer healing and hope, not hatred and anger
- Seek to meet the earthly needs of those who are hurting
- Offer earthly hope first, then spiritual hope through salvation
- Call others to participate in ministry care (Matthew 14:16)

BUILT TO LAST

What do we do when the storms of life come?

Lessons from Peter the fisherman

- Don't let our fatigue hinder our faith (Matthew 14:25)
- When faced with fear, remember the past faithfulness of Jesus
- When faced with fear, look for Jesus
- When faced with fear, call out to Jesus (Matthew 14:28)
- When faced with fear, run to Jesus (Matthew 14:29)
- When faced with storms, keep our eyes on Jesus (Matthew 14:30)
- When we feel like we are sinking, call out to Jesus again and again
- When life seems overwhelmingly difficult, grab the hand of Jesus and never let go (Matthew 14:31)

BUILT TO LAST

Now What?

- Living in a world with so much evil, followers of Jesus must hold on to the Savior, living our faith and sharing our faith.
- Tragedy and heartache can discourage us.
- The gift of salvation must encourage us.

Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

BUILT TO LAST

Where do we look for hope in the hurt?

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Psalm 46:1-3

BUILT TO LAST



Erika Kirk 

@MrsErikaKirk · [Follow](#)



Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

11:45 AM · Sep 10, 2025

Less than three hours before Charlie Kirk was assassinated during an event at a college campus, his wife, Erika Kirk, posted this Bible verse on social media.

BUILT TO LAST

Where is America today?

They cried out in fear. Matthew 14:26

It is human to hurt. It is reasonable to feel anger when evil seems to be winning. It is normal to fear when society seems broken. It is understandable to grieve over senseless deaths.

BUILT TO LAST

Where can we find hope today?

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Matthew 14:27

BUILT TO LAST