

- We are in a teaching series called “The Words we Sing”
- In the course of this month we are diving deeper into the lyrics of 5 songs we sing on a regular basis.
- The purpose of this series is to get us to think and consider what we are singing and hopefully encourage us to encounter God deeper through these songs.
- This week let’s look at the song “Build My Life” by Housefires.
- We sang it earlier – let’s read it over again.

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
 Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
 Worthy of every breath we could ever
 breathe
 We live for you

Holy there is no one like you
 There is none beside you
 Open up my eyes in wonder
 And show me who you are
 And fill me with your heart
 And lead me in love to those around me

Jesus the name above every other name
 Jesus the only one who could save
 Worthy of every breath we could ever
 breathe
 We live for you
 Oh we live for you

And I will build my life upon your love it is a
 firm foundation
 And I will put my trust in you alone and not
 be shaken

- The bridge of this song puts the focus on what the point of singing this song is.
And I will build my life upon your love it is a firm foundation
And I will put my trust in you alone and not be shaken
- So before we jump into a great account of Jesus telling a story that would really get people thinking, that would shake some of them up, let me ask you a question.
- What foundation are you building your life on?
- The Burj Dubai tower, the tallest tower in the world was completed in 2010. It is a marvel of engineering, but before they ever began construction of the tower, they poured in 110,000 tonnes (that is almost 250 million lbs) of concrete along with steel into 192 pillars that are 5 feet wide and 130 feet deep buried 165 feet into the ground.
- Without the design of this foundation, the building, which soars almost a ½ mile into the air could never have been built.
- The foundation is all important. It is what supports everything else.
- What is your foundation?
- When you work, raise your family, interact with your neighbors, be involved in church, play music, sports or engage in artistic expressions. As you develop skills, go to school, get new jobs, what is the foundation on which these activities are based?
- Here’s the thing. Every one of us has a foundation to our life. It is the beliefs and principles that influence everything we do.
- Our foundations begin in this life without a whole lot of thought by us. They are shaped by our parents, our family history, our experience, the things that happen around and to us.
- As we get older, we get to choose how we build on our foundation and the best news is that the foundation we started with is not permanent and we get to affect our foundation at any time of life.
- **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR LIFE.**
- Let’s look at the parable that this song reminds us of.
- Jesus was going up and down Galilee and Judea, preaching and teaching.

- He was doing all kinds of miraculous signs. Healing people, giving away free bread, making really good wine, raising people from the dead, getting people free from the influence of evil spirits.
- People were stoked and so they would come from miles around to see if he might do one of these miraculous things and at the same time listen to him teach.
- They didn't always get it. He spoke in stories and parables that sometimes left them scratching their heads in puzzlement. But sometimes it was dead clear and very disturbing.
- On this particular occasion, Jesus was with the disciples and the crowds, and he told a story, a parable, that has a very familiar word picture to you and I.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

- Jesus contrasts two different kinds of people.
- The person whose home is build on a rock. A solid foundation.
- The other person whose home is build with not solid foundation. (In Matthew, we read that it was build on sand.)
- **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR LIFE.**
- Here's the problem though.

I. We build our foundation before it is ever tested.

- The only difference between the two people in Jesus' story is what the basis for the home is, not the home itself.
- The storm and waters are the same. No one goes through this life without storms and trouble. Both houses face the torrent. Both houses face stress and problems. Both houses have their work tested.
- Because of the difference in foundation there is a difference in result.
- What is happening in your life now (today) and how you are responding to it are a result of what foundation you have been building your life on for these past months and years.
- What Jesus was telling those who were listening to and following him is that they are building on one foundation or the other.
- It is never neutral.
- There are long term benefits of wise decisions.
- There are long term consequences to unwise decisions.
- **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR LIFE.**
- But what exactly does it mean to build on a foundation? What is the difference between a solid, rock-based foundation and one in the sand? How can I be that person who when the storms come, I cannot be shaken.

III. We build our foundation by what we do.

- Notice the words in the first part of the song.

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| <i>Worthy of every song we could ever sing</i> | <i>Jesus the name above every other name</i> |
| <i>Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring</i> | <i>Jesus the only one who could save</i> |
| <i>Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe</i> | <i>Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe</i> |
| <i>We live for you</i> | <i>We live for you</i> |
| | <i>Oh we live for you</i> |

- The key is the last two lines that are repeated at the end of each verse. We live for you.
- It is the way we live that reveals what we are building our foundation on.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

- I wonder how many people would sing the song differently if we were totally honest?

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|---|--|
| <i>Worthy of every song we could ever sing</i> | <i>Jesus the only one who could save</i> |
| <i>Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring</i> | <i>Worthy of every breath I could ever breathe</i> |
| <i>Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe</i> | <i>But I need control cause</i> |
| <i>I live for you (sometimes), but mostly for me.</i> | <i>I need what I need.</i> |
| <i>Jesus the name above every other name</i> | |

- It's ridiculous, but it's the great temptation for our lives.

A. A sure foundation is living Jesus' way.

- So many people were coming to Jesus, impressed by the signs and miracles. They liked that he put the religious leaders in their place. They loved being cared for. In other words, they like everything they could get FROM Jesus and would praise him but they were unwilling to actually live like what he said was true.

46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.

- He told this story at the end of a whole discourse. He had been teaching a whole bunch of things.
 - Put other people's interests of yourself.
 - Show grace and mercy to others, just like you have received.
 - Be a peacemaker, not fighting or running away from conflict. Do whatever you have to do to be reconciled to others. Forgive. Repent. Confess.
 - Turn the other cheek – always take the high road.
 - Don't strive to be seen and praised, but serve others.
 - Be salt and light to the people around you and don't be afraid of standing up for Jesus.
 - Practice and teach others all the things you learn from Jesus.
 - Find sexual satisfaction in your spouse and nowhere else.
 - Practice purity in your thoughts and actions.
 - Keep your word to others all the time.
 - Go the extra mile.
 - Love those who are your enemies and do good to them.

- Don't think too much or rely on money – give it away freely. Be generous, but so that God sees you, not others.
- Pray consistently. Desire the righteousness of God. Seek God with all your energy
- Make God your first resort for all things.
- Don't worry but trust God's goodness
- Do what God does and love those whom God loves
- Be honest with your own faults and approach others in complete humility
- Then when all that has been taught, he tells them. You want to be someone whose life can withstand the storms? Do that!

B. A faulty foundation is living by my standards and ideals.

- The word for a foolish man is to be dull or stupid. A blockhead.
- 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”*
- In this scenario, we are the deciders of the best way to live.
- If the sure foundation is doing what Jesus said, then the faulty foundation is the opposite.
- It is foolish. Not wise. It leads to problems. It is following Jesus when it is convenient. When it doesn't cost us in time, money, energy or inconvenience.
- **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR LIFE.**

IV. Jesus is inviting us into a better life based on a better foundation.

- Jesus is not giving those that follow him a “checklist.” It is not a list of to-do's that will somehow give us salvation or God's approval.
- This is following in Jesus ways because he is better at life than you are. He knows. He can be trusted. He is faithful.
- The people Jesus was teaching always wanted more. Another sign. Another miracle. Something else to show that they should follow him.
- I sometimes do the same thing. I ask Jesus for more. I know you're there but show me something really amazing so I can have confidence in following you.
- I ask and he asks back, “Like what?”
- More signs. Something really spectacular.
- “You mean like putting a rock that's big enough for you to live on and fine tune it so that it sustains life and is different from the millions of other floating rocks in the universe?”
- No, no, I mean something really amazing.
- “How about a 576 mega pixel camera and I will give you two of them and put them on the front of your head.”
- “How about I connect them to a 3000 gighz computer with enough memory to pass knowledge down generation to generation.”
- No, something truly spectacular – miraculous healing.
- “Before the speaker finishes this sentence, 50,000 cells are going to die and be replaced by new ones (with no conscious thought by you.) Thanks to that computer in your head you can miraculously healing most diseases yourself.”

*Holy there is no one like you
 There is none beside you
 Open up my eyes in wonder
 And show me who you are
 And fill me with your heart*

And lead me in love to those around me

- Jesus wants us to follow him. How we live shows the degree to which we are trusting him because he has proven that his way is, in fact, superior.
- We ask God to show us and open up our eyes to how amazing he is.

- **YOU GET TO CHOOSE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR LIFE.**

- So let's go all the way back to the bridge. The two lines in the song that we started with.

And I will build my life upon your love it is a firm foundation

And I will put my trust in you alone and not be shaken

- "I will"
- It is a commitment. It is not a wish, or a hope, or a truth we know in our head.
- It is a decision that we affirm in our words.
- What Jesus is describing takes time.
- He says that wise person digs down to the foundation and begins to build on it.
- Building a foundation on Jesus means doing something over and over. It means getting it wrong and getting up and following him.
- That means your decisions in following Jesus TODAY will have a result in the future.
- Side note: The problem here is that building on a faulty foundation almost always has immediate rewards. Building on a sure foundation has better long term rewards.

When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

- What an amazing promise.
- I know I want to be that person, who every time the storms of life roll into my life, I can not be shaken.
- That means I trust in Jesus and be building my foundation now, even before anything might be happening.
- I'm going to build it by what I do. I will choose to trust God, to give him my yes, to live the way he calls me to live, without excuses.
- Knowing that he invites me into a better life built on a better foundation.