

LOOKING AT LUKE
BUILT ON THE ROCK

Thursday, August 20

Reading: Luke 5-6

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."

The great architect Frank Lloyd Wright was given the challenge of building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of the most earthquake-prone cities in the world. Wright's investigation showed that a solid foundation could be "floated" on a sixty-foot layer of soft mud underlying the hotel, which would provide a shock-absorbing but solid support for the immense building. Shortly after the hotel was completed it withstood the worst earthquake in fifty-two years, while lesser buildings fell in ruins around it.¹

Luke 6 parallels Matthew's account of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). It is the Lord's instructions for kingdom living. Luke closes this account with Jesus' parable of the two houses - one built on rock and one built on sand. The house built on the rock endured the storms because of its solid foundation. In contrast, the house built on sand quickly collapsed and was destroyed by the storm.

There are many important lessons to glean from this parable. The first point we must notice is that the rock foundation on which the wise person builds is obedience to Christ's words. Both the wise and foolish builder heard Jesus' words. But the wise builder not only hears Jesus' words but "puts them into practice." That is why Jesus begins this parable by warning that merely calling Him "Lord" is not enough if we do not do what He commands!

A second point comes from the effort exerted by the builders. In order to build his foundation on rock he "dug down deep." It took work and energy to have a strong house. The other man took the easy way out and simply built his house on the sand. He might have finished faster than the wise man but his house would not stand. Likewise, it takes work to build a strong Christian life. We must work on our relationship with the Lord through obedience to His Word, prayer, and spiritual discipline.

Interestingly, the storm hit both houses, believers and unbelievers alike! The point of Jesus parable is where you build your foundation. A solid foundation does not seem important when all is calm. But when calamity, persecution, or crisis hit, only the believer who has prepared - one who has a strong relationship with the Lord - will survive.

How's your foundation?

Is it solid or are there cracks?

Are you building on the solid rock of obedience to Christ and a growing relationship with Him?

¹ Today in the Word, March 1989 quoted @ http://www.preceptaustin.org/luke_commentaries_3#6