**The Parable of the Two Builders**

**Matthew 7:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**Martin Lloyd-Jones**

There is nothing more insulting to the Holy Name of God than to profess Him with your lips and deny Him with your life.

 This morning I want us to consider the Parable of the Two Builders. Our text this morning will be the end of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus ends His short talk with this parable that forces accountability. What do I mean by this? In His Sermon He covers a lot of things from the Beatitudes, to being Salt & Light for the World, to Prayer, to Anxiety, to not being a hypocritical judge, to choosing the narrow way and to finally warning that not everyone who says ‘Lord, Lord’s will enter into His glory as we discussed a few weeks ago, but then He wraps up His talk with this very powerful but short parable.

 The parable is regarding what we do with God’s Word. Many of us are quick to hear it but not heed it. We then wonder why life never changes or we live in patterns or cycles that seem impossible to get out of, and it because we continue to live as we do without repentance. We humans have been sinning from the beginning, but we have a Christian problem when we lack obedience to what Christ expects of us and out of us. This idea that God has expectations on us and for us seems very new to many because their view of God is this all-loving push over, and not the all-loving authority the Bible reveals God to be.

**Matthew 7:13-27**

“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.

“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 in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you! **Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!**’

**“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”**

1. **The Facts of Life**

**Illustration:**

If we are to put something together it makes sense to follow the directions of the Creator of whatever it is we are putting together. If we don’t, we sometimes run out of parts or end up with parts left over and wonder why the thing doesn’t last or doesn’t last very long. In the same way, life is the same! It only makes sense to follow the instructions of the Creator of life if we want our life to make sense.

Or why do we put 6 quarts of oil in a car engine and not 8 or 3 quarts? Because the creator of the engine knows where the car will run at peak performance in regards to the oil pressure of the vehicle. So does God in regards to life!

**John 14:15**

**15**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

1. **The Foundation of Life Matters**

**James 1:19-25**

**19**Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20**for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. **21**Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

**22**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23**For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24**For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. **25**But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. [[1]](#footnote-1)

**Chuck Swindoll**

In vain I have searched the Bible, looking for examples of early believers whose lives were marked by rigidity, predictability, inhibition, dullness, and caution. Fortunately, grim, frowning, joyless saints in Scriptures are conspicuous by their absence. Instead, the examples I find are of adventurous, risk-taking, enthusiastic, and authentic believers whose joy was contagious even in times of full trial. Their vision was broad even when death drew near. Rules were few and changes were welcome. The contrast between then and now is staggering.

**George Mueller**

Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

**Matthew 16:13-18**

**13**Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” **14**And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15**He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16**Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17**And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18**And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**Proverbs 16:18**

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

1. **The Fall of the Foolish**

**Illustration**: The Ranch

**Ezekiel 13:10-14**

**10**Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash, **11**say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall! There will be a deluge of rain, and you, O great hailstones, will fall, and a stormy wind break out. **12**And when the wall falls, will it not be said to you, ‘Where is the coating with which you smeared it?’ **13**Therefore thus says the Lord God: I will make a stormy wind break out in my wrath, and there shall be a deluge of rain in my anger, and great hailstones in wrath to make a full end. **14**And I will break down the wall that you have smeared with whitewash, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you shall perish in the midst of it, and you shall know that I am the Lord.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**The Illustration of the Flag and the Flag Pole**

**CONCLUSION:**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

**10**According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11**For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12**Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— **13**each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. **14**If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. **15**If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. [[3]](#footnote-3)

**A.W. Tozer**

 Faith, as Paul saw it, was a living, flaming thing leading to surrender and obedience to the commandments of Christ.

**C.S. Lewis**

Authority exercised with humility, and obedience accepted with delight are the very lines along which our spirits live.

**On Christ the Solid Rock**

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

When darkness veils His lovely face
I'll rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy day
My anchor holds within the veil

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jas1.19&off=27&ctx=+and+Doing+the+Word%0a~19%C2%A0g%EF%BB%BFKnow+this%2c+my+b). (2016). (Jas 1:19–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Eze13.10&off=0&ctx=I+am+the+%E2%80%A2Lord+God.+~10%C2%A0Precisely+because). (2016). (Eze 13:10–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.1Co3.10&off=0&ctx=+q%EF%BB%BFGod%E2%80%99s+building.+%0a~10%C2%A0r%EF%BB%BFAccording+to+th). (2016). (1 Co 3:10–15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)