

Build On The Rock

The Parables of Jesus

Ben Deaver at Tallgrass at The Well on July 3, 2022

Matthew 7:24-29

So what? We need to build our lives on Jesus' life and teaching.

Feel what? My life could crumble unless I confidently build on Jesus' life and teaching.

Now what? Dig down deep to the Rock and build there.

VISION CASTING – Jesus is the Rock that we should build our lives on.

INTRODUCTION

Happy 3rd of July, the day before the 4th of July!

- Our country's foundation was laid 246 years ago.

Parables of Jesus

The Wise Man & The Foolish Man Hymn

- Sing *The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock* with Elisha?! She sings melody and does the actions while I play keys and sing harmony.
- Keyboard - Memory 9.2 Kidz 2
- INTRO
 - Key of C
 - Only C and G chords
 - Melody starts G to E

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels by Kenneth E. Bailey

"This song has contributed to the ingrained assumption in the subconscious of many English-speaking Christians that this parable is a folkloric children's story. But dynamite comes in small packages, and in context this parable creates powerful theological meaning." -p. 321

Bring a firecracker and act like I'm going to light it.
"This is a small thing but watch how fast it clears out the front row!"

Build on The Rock

Matthew 7:24-27 ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

PRAY

"Father, we want to gather around to hear Jesus. We want to dig down deep to the Rock and build or rather rebuild our lives on Him. Amen."

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

The task of interpretation is a combo of three things:

- Sit and listen to the parable again and again.
- Identify the points of reference intended by Jesus that would have been picked up by the original hearers.
- Try to determine how the original hearers would have identified with the story, and therefore what they would have heard.
- What was the intended meaning and application *back then and there*? Then determine the application for us *here and now*.
- Step Parallelism
 - Hear – Do
 - Build on rock
 - Storm – Stand
 - Hear – Don't do
 - Build on sand
 - Storm – Crash

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels by Kenneth E. Bailey

- “In the modern Western world a person who wants to build a house hires a backhoe to dig the foundation. Concrete for the foundation is delivered in a cement

truck. Concrete blocks are lowered into the foundation with power equipment. Lumber and all building materials are delivered and unloaded with ease. Wall plaster comes in sheets and roofing in bundles, which are power-lifted onto the roof. The trusses are factory made to specification and are delivered and unloaded with power equipment. In spite of all this, building a house is still a strenuous task (*especially with the cost of materials and labor these days!*).” -p. 323

- “By contrast, the time and energy required to build a house in ancient times was beyond anything builders in developed countries have experienced for centuries. The enormous effort required to build a house in the ancient world was more perfectly understood by Ibn al-Tayyib who began his reflections on this parable by saying, ‘Every Christian knows that building a house is not an easy endeavor. Rather it involves exhausting and frightening efforts, strenuous hardships, along with continuous and life-threatening struggles.’” -p. 323
 - Ibn al-Tayyib was an influential biblical commentator who wrote in Arabic and died in 1043.
- “In the Holy Land solid rock lies everywhere—just beneath the soil. If the builder plans a house in a valley, the earth and rubble may be ten or more feet deep... I

have asked numerous village builders about the depth they must excavate to construct a stone house. The answer is always the same. They tell me they must dig 'down to the rock.'" -p. 324

- Other translations/paraphrases of Matthew 7:24
 - *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* - The ones who listen to me and walk in my ways are like a wise man who built a grand lodge on solid ground.
 - *The Message* - These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock.
 - It's like trying to replace a ceiling fan while the foundation is cracked and the house is dividing in half.
 - Recent properties for sale that were likely bought up to be slightly improved and continued to rent without fixing the foundations.
- **Luke 6:48a** They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.

○ Manhattan Area Habitat for Humanity Build 31 foundation issues

Parallel Parable in Isaiah

Isaiah 28:14-18 ¹⁴ Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem.

- The Assyrian army was approaching Israel and Israel had made agreements with Egypt. That's who they were building their future on.
- Prophetic rhetorical template
- Chiastic Structure with the climax at the center

¹⁵ You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the realm of the dead we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us,

for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

¹⁶ So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;

the one who relies on it
will never be stricken with panic.

¹⁷ I will make justice the measuring line
and righteousness the plumb line;

hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie,
and water will overflow your hiding place.

¹⁸ Your covenant with death will be annulled;
your agreement with the realm of the dead will not
stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by,
you will be beaten down by it.

- “Like Isaiah, Jesus knew that a great storm was on its way in the form of the Zealot nationalists who were gathering strength, and cut off from reality they thought they could fight Rome and win. Jesus foresaw disaster and knew that they would fail.” -p. 328
- “The glorious house build as a dwelling for God would be destroyed by a great storm of war with Roman forces. But, as in the case with Isaiah, all was not lost. Jesus offered himself and his words as a new foundation on which a new temple was already built

and thereby affirmed that God's presence was among them in that temple, which was his body." -p. 328

- It feels like our society and culture has been engulfed in storms and that the storms aren't abating or subsiding or going away.

Are you building your life on rock or sand? Are WE building on the Rock or on sand? What's going into your foundation? What's forming OUR foundation?

Let's take a media audit together.

- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, Pinterest, Bebo
 - Whatsapp, Marco Polo, Locket
 - Where's the Bible in your hours of consumption?
 - Pharisees Feed, Zealot Zinger
- Streaming Services – HBO Max, Hulu, Discovery+, Paramount+, Netflix, Disney+, Apple TV+, Prime Video, Peacock
 - Where's the Bible in your hours of consumption?
 - Sadducees+, Roman Times
- The Media Bias Chart at adfontesmedia.com
 - Who immediately looked for your favorite news source?

- Who immediately became cynical and skeptical and suspicious about the bias of this source?
- Who immediately became cynical and skeptical and suspicious about the bias of the one presenting The Media Bias Chart in a sermon on a Sunday morning?
- Who wants me to zoom in for a closer look?
- “Ad Fontes is Latin for ‘to the source,’ because we rate news by analyzing the source and its actual content. We use a rigorous, reproducible methodology, and a politically balanced team of analysts, to rate that content, both for bias and for reliability.”
- Ad Fontes Media has an Interactive Media Bias Chart on their website.
- “Ad Fontes Media is a public benefit corporation with a mission to make news consumers smarter and news media better. Currently, we face a crisis of too much junk news.”
- “Junk news is like junk food, and just like junk food has caused massive health epidemics in our country, junk news is causing a massive polarization epidemic.”

- We need to replace junk food for that which nourishes and sustains and bring about human flourishing.
- How about this News source? The Holy Bible! Where would you put that on this spectrum?
- The Bible contains Good News that takes us AD FONTES, “to the Source” of Life, Jesus Christ Himself.
- We need to truly go AD FONTES, “to the Source.”
- **John 7:37-39a** ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.
- **John 5:39-40** ³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
- “We are optimistic that together, we can rise to this challenge. It is imperative that we do. And a problem this big requires a multi-pronged solution

and participation from all the stakeholders in good journalism.”

SOLUTION

Matthew 7:28-29 ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

- Jesus was a teacher of wisdom. Wisdom literature tended to speak in terms of polarities. Either this or that. The wise or foolish man. The righteous or wicked person. There was no gray area or in between. But when you read the narratives you get complex characters who don't fit into either or. And that's real life. Jesus knows this. That is why He came to live the perfectly wise life because no one else has, can, or ever will.

RESPONSE & ACTION

1. Assess and clean up the storm damage.
 - Demolition vs. Deconstruction vs. Storms
 - In all three cases, reconstruction is needed
 - Storms of life
 - How are you learning from yesterday's storms and preparing today for the storms of tomorrow? And they will come. You know they will come. Because you're a human on planet earth.

2. Dig down deep to the Rock.
 - Don't even believe in God?! Cry out for help! What's the worst that could happen? There's no response and you're stuck where you're at. What's the best that could happen? There's a response and your life is changed.
 - **1 Peter 2:4-5** ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:6** For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (*Isaiah 28:16*)
 - There words were written to Jesus followers after Rome had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. They were under fierce persecution by Nero. Yet a chapter later Peter encourages them to be prepared to give a reason for their HOPE!
- **1 Peter 2:7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” (*Psalms 118:22*)
- **1 Peter 2:8** ...and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” (*Isaiah 8:14*) They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.
- **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- **1 Peter 2:10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3. Build on the Rock.

- *Whole Bible in Under 2 Years* plan through YouVersion at bible.com
 - About 40 of us started this reading plan on January 4th, 2021. It will end on November 17th, 2022 (for those that stay caught up or get caught up like I plan to do). That's 137 days from today.
 - I'd love to start a new Bible reading plan together at the beginning of 2023 for any who are interested, including friends and family who are invested in other churches or not involved in a faith community at all.
 - In the meantime, here are some ideas for you to build your life on the Words of Christ.
 - There are 260 chapters in the New Testament. You could read two chapters a day and finish before the end of the year with some flexibility. That would take 160 days if you stayed consistent and there are 182 days left in 2021.
 - You could add a chapter in Psalms and/or Proverbs a day. There are 150 Psalms and 31 Proverbs so you would finish both by the end of the year with one chapter a day.

4. Help your neighbors.

- Neighboring
- Who's your ONE?

INSPIRATION

Invite the Worship Team & Maris Deaver up

Crystal Oglesby's Testimony for July 3rd, 2022

- I asked Crystal Oglesby to share some of her testimony of building on the Rock recently. I asked her to write it because she's a great writer and has been writing more recently. And also she's camping this weekend with her husband, Dilan, so isn't here in person...which is awesome! I'm so thankful they are doing something fun together right now!
- According to Instagram, Crystal is a middle school teacher, thyroid cancer fighter, miscarriage survivor, mama to fur babies, and adventurer at heart.
- Crystal's website is hopeandheartache.wixsite.com/hope
- Maris is going to read Crystal's testimony.

As many of you know, the past two years have been anything but easy. There are many times that it would have been easier to say no, I'm done fighting, and give up. And in reality, there have been times that I have thought that - more times than I'd like to admit. Miscarriage, infertility, and cancer by themselves are traumatic and hard to work through but put all three together and it seems impossible to make it out the other side of it all.

There have been countless times through this season that I have been so furious with God, doubted, and turned my back for a bit. I find myself furious that there is not an answer. That there is not an end yet, that there is so much God could do, but hasn't. And that's where I get frustrated. I've had to ask the hard questions. I've had to dig in where it wasn't easy to dig in.

I've had to realize that even in the midst of so much heartache and unanswered prayers, there are prayers that are being answered - just not the way I thought they would be. Because if I don't focus on this, I honestly think I would have given up by now.

I'll be the first to admit to you that my foundation before this season was shaky. I grew up in church, but I didn't ever take the time to focus on building it rock by rock. I took comfort in knowing I had not had to dig in deep, that I was living comfortably, I was making it on my own accord. But when my world crashed, building that foundation became one of the most important things I could do.

It became important to build that foundation to battle the lies that the world, Satan, and myself were telling me. It became important to continue to fight despite the rivers rising far above the banks and winds blowing endlessly. Standing on my faith through this season and building it up again after it was crumbling has given me the hope I need to keep fighting.

The circumstances I am in now are not ideal and not something I would wish on anyone. But I have hope that this season will end, that there are better things on the other side of it all and it's worth fighting through. I have hope that this season will be used for good. Maybe it's for a story to share with others, maybe it's so I can find true, honest joy in the future, maybe I'll never know the reason I am trudging through this season. Even in the lies

that feel more like truth, I know that God won't fail me in this season.

He may not be fulfilling the prayers of miraculous healing, children, or an easy season, but He is fulfilling me in other ways and providing more than I ever could without Him. All this to say if you find yourself in a similar season of hurt and heartache, it's okay to doubt and take the time to slow down to question, strengthen your foundation, and keep fighting. There is so much hope out there that He is waiting to share with you right in the middle of it all.

CONCLUSION

Firm Foundation

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now?
He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful through every season
So why would He fail now?

Rain came, wind blew
But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You
I'm gonna make it through

PRAY

"Father, we want to gather around to hear Jesus. We want ears to hear and hearts to receive and hands to reach out and welcome other sinners into the presence of Your Son. Amen."

Chopping Block:

- *A Biblical Meditation on Experience and Truth 2008 XSI Teaching* by D.A. Carson
 - The wisdom literature tends to speak in terms of extremes / dichotomies / polar opposites.
 - Psalm 1; Either or; This or that; No gray; No in between
- **James 1:22-27** ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
 - Learn by doing.
 - You are what you think. But you show what you truly think by what you do.
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - Proverbs 23:7 KJV For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
- **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- How are you learning from yesterday's storms and preparing today for the storms of tomorrow? And they will come. You know they will come. Because you're a human on planet earth.
- Psalm 1
- Rock passages
- Learn from your neighbors how to build or how not to build.
- Recent tornadoes and storms
- Habitat building process
- God's wisdom - 1 Cor
- The fall and rise of Peter, the rock
- The fall and rise of Jesus, the Rock
- Psalm 1
- Rock passages
- Learn from your neighbors how to build or how not to build.
- Recent tornadoes and storms
- Habitat building process

- God's wisdom - 1 Cor
- The fall and rise of Peter, the rock
- The fall and rise of Jesus, the Rock
- We remove rock then pour our foundation.
- Back then they dug down to the rock that was already there. Gods placed the Rock that they built upon.
- Psalm 127:1
- Ezekiel 33:29-33 love song analogy
- We are used to hearing but not doing. That's how we relate to the music we listen to.
- Is Islamic terms Jesus is the new Kaaba.
- In Christian and Jewish terms, He is the foundation stone in the holy of holies of the third temple.
- Chaff - "He or she is flaky." Not much substance.
- Mind of Christ
- Think God's thoughts after Him
- Faith over fear
- Gotta prepare though
- You reap what you sow. Galatians 6
- Satan reaps what sows.
- **Isaiah 28:14-18** ¹⁴ Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. ¹⁵ You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the realm of the dead we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."
¹⁶ So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
 "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,
 a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;
 the one who relies on it
 will never be stricken with panic.
¹⁷ I will make justice the measuring line
 and righteousness the plumb line;
 hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie,
 and water will overflow your hiding place.
¹⁸ Your covenant with death will be annulled;
 your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand.
 When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by,
 you will be beaten down by it.
- **Luke 6:46-49** 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 Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels* by Kenneth E. Bailey
 - The parable uses step parallelism as a rhetorical structure. Three themes appear:
 - Hear/Do
 - Building a house
 - The storm/flood and its results
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart
 - “...for all their charm and simplicity, the parables have suffered a fate of misinterpretation in the church second only to the Revelation.” -p. 149
 - “The whole point of a joke and what makes it funny is that the hearer has an immediacy with it as it is being told. It is funny to the hearer precisely because he or she gets “caught,” as it were. But it can only catch them if they *understand the points of reference* in the joke.” -p. 153
 - My joke telling and hearing experience in Germany
 - “How do we recapture the punch of the parables in our own times and our own settings?” -p. 153
 - The points of reference and the unexpected turn
 - The point of the parable is found in the intended response
 - Identifying the audience