

“This Is Jesus: Foundational”

³⁹ “He also told them this parable: ‘Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

⁴¹ Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸ He is 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 had a knack for teaching concepts in ways that are easy to relate to, understand, and remember. Today’s sermon lesson is no different as it is packed with lots of different pictures – the blind leading the blind, students emulating their teacher, pulling sawdust and two by fours out of your eye, rotten fruit and delicious fruit, and houses built on bedrock vs. houses built on sand. We love those pictures! And the person that ties all of those pictures together is Jesus. And the concept he wants us to wrestle with today is this – is Jesus a foundational part of your life or is Jesus a non-foundational part of your life? The reason he asks is because the difference is obvious and it is life-changing.

It's not a matter of if the storms of life will come, but how severe they will be. We face storms of various kinds each and every day. It is estimated that a person makes 35,000 decisions every day! That can be a very overwhelming storm. Who is helping you make those decisions? Is it more often the blind leading the blind as you look to the world around you to help you make decisions? Or is Jesus and His Word guiding your decision making process? Or consider the stage of life you are in right now. Do you have storms of regrets, failures, disappointments, and missed opportunities? How do you deal with those storms? Do you blame other people publicly or privately or just let bitterness fester toward others in your mind? "Not my fault" you say and think as the two by four is sticking out of your own eye instead of taking responsibility for whatever role you played in the regrets, failures, disappointments, and missed opportunities. What about when the storms of temptation come on a daily basis to think and behave and speak like someone who does not know and believe in Jesus as Savior? When earthly success and blessing comes your way and you are tempted to love it more than Jesus. When earthly problems come your way and you are tempted to follow earthly solutions rather than Biblical solutions. When uncertainty or loss or tragedy crash in around you and you are tempted to fall into worry and depression instead of trusting that God will sustain you and help you to move forward in joy. We have all witnessed people who don't handle the storms of life very well and maybe at times we have been the one who hasn't handled the storms of life very well. The storms of death, failing health, financial struggles, relationship issues, family concerns, all kinds of temptations to sin, guilt over sin, and much more has rocked the house of your life and mine and the response has not always been Christ-like. And the life-changing danger of not having Jesus as the foundation of your life is this: **"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" (vs. 49).** The danger of not having the house of your life built on Jesus completely is that you fail to see God's blessing in hardship and your life crumbles as you deal with the storms. And as your life is crumbling, other people don't look at your life and think, "having faith in Jesus really makes a positive difference in a person's life." And the greatest danger of not having your life built on the foundation of Jesus is that it leads to eternal destruction in Hell.

But verse 49 doesn't need to be the description of the house of your life and mine. In Baptism, God built the house of your life and mine upon this foundational promise: **"You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God"** (1 Corinthians 6:11). Every last time you made a decision in life that was not based upon God's Word – Jesus washed you clean of that when he suffered Hell and died

on the cross for you. Every last time you have considered yourself innocent and others guilty for the world's problems and your problems – Jesus sanctified you, made you look holy to God by covering your sin with the holiness of his life. Every last time you have given in to the various storms of temptation to sin – Jesus justified you, declared you not guilty in God's courtroom now and forever, when he rose from the dead. That is the reality, and the only thing missing at times is that as Christians we forget that God the Holy Spirit built our faith and life upon the foundation of Jesus. And as we remember that more and more day by day see this happen in your life. **“I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is 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” (vs. 47-48).** Your faith in Jesus is not built on Lego's, Lincoln logs, or pebbles – it is built on the rock solid truths of God's Word which means that your faith and life is built on the bedrock foundation that is Jesus Christ. So go be who you are – someone built on the bedrock foundation of Jesus to find joy on earth in every situation. So go be who you are – someone who shows and tells others the awesome benefits of having your faith and life built on the bedrock foundation of Jesus. So go be who you are – someone built on the bedrock foundation of Jesus to withstand any storm that might come your way until your house in Heaven is ready to be occupied. The house that never needs to worry about any bad weather again. Amen.