

FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

Dedicated to Discipleship Series

Sermon Notes

Part 5

I'm Still Standing

Matthew 7:24-29

I recently read an article stating that the famous Tower of Pisa in Italy leans because it was constructed upon a foundation that was totally inadequate. Steps have been taken over the years to address the tilt, but the fundamental flaw in the design stemmed from the fact that the builders were in such a hurry to get the Tower up into the sky that they didn't take the time to go down deep into the soil. Therefore, the Italian tourist attraction perpetually leans. And so do we!

Too often we are just like the builders of the Tower. In the interest of seeking to go higher, we often take shortcuts or look for quick fixes that cause us to disregard the necessity of building our lives, hopes, dreams, families, and friendships and the right foundation that will allow us to withstand the storms, sorrows, and successes of life.

Jesus completely understood in today's passage the importance of building one's life upon a foundation that was solid, safe, and secure rather than one that gave the appearance that all is well when it really wasn't. Although Jesus had been expounding about the character of the kingdom subjects in 5:1-10, the calling of the kingdom subjects in 5:11-16, the conduct of the kingdom participants in 5:17-7:12, He never negated the power of choice and commitment as is found in Matthew 7:13-27. God has always put the ball of decision back in our court when it comes to our future- we must choose whom we will serve. (See Joshua 24:15)

Jesus, raised as a carpenter, truly knew about 3 necessities to keep not just a house standing, but one's life standing for the glory of God.

I. Live out what you have learned (v.24/26)

Everyone who hears (Gr. akouo – listens, receive, pay attention to) over and over again. Which implies that the recipients are those who are always in the sphere of the Scriptures. Always taking in or giving out what He says. However, taking in or giving out is not enough, because He says “acts on them” which means performs them, carries them out, puts them into practice.

Jesus is telling us that simply being in the vicinity of His words brings no victory through the Word because knowledge is not enough. Jesus is calling for obedience. (See Luke 11:28, John 13:14, John 15:14, 1 John 2:3-6)

What area must you begin to live out what you have learned?

Giving, Serving, Forgiving, Connecting, Communicating, Sexual Purity, Witnessing

“A Place to Begin Again”

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What did you learn last week that you will begin to obey Jesus in doing this week?

II. **Look again at your foundation (v.25/27)**

2 Contrasting foundations: Rock and Sand

One steady and one shaky, one is immovable and one is very movable. And both got hit by the same storm. It was the storm on the outside they truly revealed what was on their inside. The storm revealed their foundational secret.

The sand fell and great was its fall, but the house built upon the rock (Gr. *petra* – a large bedrock) did not fall.

Jesus wants us to examine our foundation to make sure that our lives are built upon the rock of His Word and His being. Jesus wants us to make sure that we are saved and that we belong to Him not in superficial professions to impress people, but in the deep crevices of our existence we are being held together by Him because we truly know Him, and He knows us. (See 2 Cor. 13:5, 1 Peter 2:7)

The question becomes, are you truly anchored in Jesus Christ? For the saved He is our strength and security (Ps 31:2-3) but for the unsaved He is a stumbling block. (See 1 Peter 2:8)

What foundation are you building your career upon, your friendships upon, your parenting upon, and most of all your life upon? Is it Christ or the culture? There are only 2 options.

If it is the culture- you are on sand and you are foolish, and it will fall!

III. **Let Jesus lead the way (v.28-29)**

Jesus spoke as a legislator not a commentator. Jesus's words were authoritative, comprehensive and powerful for every realm of life. When His sermon message was over, they were all "amazed". (Gr. *ekplesso* – astounded, struck with astonishment, blown away) It was clear that Jesus not only had theological doctrine, but He also spoke as Deity.

But only the wise man in the story took His Words to heart and submitted to His authority and will. What about you? Now that you have read and heard, what will you do?

Will you allow His Word to guide you daily, or will you continue to be a hearer but not a doer? Standing is directly tied to submitting to the authority of His Word!

"A Place to Begin Again"