



# Brown Community Group

## Discussion Guide

The Parables of Jesus: Wise and Foolish Builders (Gospel Foundation) –

July 10, 2022

Luke 6:46-49, Matthew 7:24-27

### I. Starter Thoughts and Perspective:

- If we honestly assess, what or who has been the most significant shaping force and foundation in your life? Has it been your father, mother, boss, friend, church, job, God? Has it been personal experiences that have positively or negatively affected you both psychologically and physically to this very day?
- While we stay on this honest assessment, are we currently aware of any parts of lives that do not match up with God's teachings in His word?
- Today we will look deep into Jesus words about his children only superficially listening to his teachings as compared to full acceptance of his authority and the upmost in obedience.
- Are we listening to what God has to say to each of us today about our personal obedience?
- God come down upon us in a mighty way to open our hearts and minds and let us be a receptive vessel to your Word and application in our lives!

### II. Scripture and Discussion:

#### Verses:

#### **Luke 6:46-49 (ESV)**

*Build Your House on the Rock*

<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>49</sup> But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

#### **Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

### III. Introduction

Two different building processes are used as examples in Matthew and Luke. In Matthew the two men demonstrate their wisdom or lack of it by their selection of the kind of ground on which to build their home. In Luke, the wise builder went to the trouble of digging down to the rock in order to find a secure foundation, whereas the other one failed to take any precaution. Wind, rain and floods then come against each man's house, with very different results. In the events of our lives, God does not promise His children that we would be immune from the events of this world, but He does clearly show us a way to be under his protection, love and shelter. The essence of this lesson challenges us to obedience to God's word so that we are called "wise" and have God's protection through our eternal life.

The primary point of this parable deals with the discrepancy between profession and practice on the part of members of the Christian community. Jesus was directly challenging his children that verbal profession alone of allegiance was not a secure foundation.

In addition to being a doer and not just a hearer of the word, another key underlying and unifying concept is the emphasis on authority, which is primary in this passage. What does it mean to accept the authority of Jesus in our lives? Jesus was attempting to show that it is so much more than mere use of words publically, no matter how sacred the words may be. The direction and decisions of our lives have to be driven by His demands and directions, not our own. Each person exercises the lordship of Jesus in their life by both hearing and doing his words. Nothing short of pure obedience will lead to the type of foundation that will secure you from life's every day and promised travails.

**For the Gospel of Matthew, the parable represents a major concern, *stressing that obedience is indispensable to discipleship. It also stresses Jesus' sense of having the right to make ultimate claims upon men and his position that their destiny is bound up with their obedience to him.***

The crowds were impressed with the authority with which Jesus taught. The authority in the teaching of Jesus is seen also in the depth, truth and finality of what he said.

Followers of Jesus are called to **live fully surrendered** (Luke 6:46-49); it is to live in total obedience. Jesus uses the illustration of the Wise and Foolish Builders to help us understand how much He cares about how we live and how seriously we take His words. Your obedience is not the key to your salvation, but it is the response to understanding the depth of all Jesus has done for you. When you have heard Jesus call your name to be in relationship with Him, obedience comes when you live surrendered to the Spirit working within you to develop its fruits in your life. One who hears Jesus words and does them is compared to a wise man who built his house upon the rock. The one who hears and does not do them is like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. One foundation clearly holds firm against everything while one gives way.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus asks a pointed question when he asks his disciples, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord', and not do what I say?" (vs. 46).
  - a. Why is this question so disruptive?

- b. So, revealing?
  - c. So merciful?
2. Based on Jesus' teachings in this text, would you say a Christian's solid foundation comes from understanding or practicing truths? Can you have one without the other?
  3. Verses 47-49 contrast the two men, but what does this reveal about them as they faced a storm?
    - a. In what ways do trials reveal who we are and what our foundation is based on?
  4. What are our dangers in responding to life's problems and issues without having a firm foundation of Christ to rely on? How can we best stay focused on the "obedience" part of this message as opposed to just hearing the truth and then doing our own thing?
  5. How does a mature faith built upon obedience assist you when confronted with tough times in your life? Anyone want to offer any examples in your life to illustrate, even possibly different times with a "Strong" and "Weak" foundation?
  6. How does Jesus characterize the result between having a firm foundation and a weak foundation? Someone correlate this for us in terms of the impact on our personal, job or family lives?
  7. What can we all do right now to help us prepare for the next storm that hits your life?

### **III. Responding in Prayer**

- Pray that we would be people who learn to follow you, that we would be people who walk in your ways. Pray against anyone leaving here thinking this passage means to do more for you. Pray for the builders' parable to help us understand that obedience is the response to understanding all Christ has done so He may do more in us. Pray that this week, the people of Henderson Hills would be people who sit and hear from the Lord. Pray that we would be a people who pray fervently and experience God's power in our lives. Pray that we would be people the Lord shapes and that His truth would become our desires and heart. Pray we would be people who are fully surrendered to you. Pray that whatever the Lord asks, may we do that, understanding we need God's help. Thank Jesus for all he has done and is doing and all He has made possible through His death, burial, and resurrection.