

“Feet on the Rock” // Luke 6:43–49 // *In Step #1*

First weekend of Sunday services. Of course, still doing home gatherings. That, you might say, is our PRIMARY way. Small Groups. Monk/hunk/chunk/drunks

Well, before we get into our new series today, I hope it comes as no surprise to anyone that there’s a major election happening in the coming days. We just finished a series where we explored how we, believers, should engage in the political arena. We saw that we should be united in what we believe the Bible teaches about justice and morality and religious liberty even when we differ in the political calculus we might take into the polls.

There is one thing, however, that we are all called to do equally and unequivocally—and that is pray for our nation. God’s invitation to his people is always, “Call to me!” And so, on **Monday, Nov. 2 at 1 p.m.**, we will digitally gather as a church for an **online prayer time**, led by Pastor Chris Gaynor.

Over the next 24 hours, we’ll give you **links you can access** from our home page and **social media handles that will make it easy for you to hop on** with us from a computer or phone. So please please please go ahead and mark that on your calendar. We’ve tried to make it as easy and accessible as possible so that as many ppl can join at 1 p.m. on Monday. Like one-click praying. Alright?

Right now, I’d love to **voice on a prayer on behalf of TSC** as we head into the election. so, let’s pray... **King’s heart / Drop in the bucket. Insignificance.** Pray for justice/let the church be the church

OK! If you have come to one of our all-church outdoor gatherings, you heard me tell a story that I thought explained what God might be doing with some of us during this season. **Let me repeat it now for the sake of those** of you who weren’t there or weren’t paying attention, because I think it sets up this passage (and this whole series)--It’s the **simple story of a lumberjack...**

At **various key moments of your life God shakes your foundation** and he asks, “What are you trusting in?”

Has he been doing this with you? Is **what you are building your life on** going to last?

Listen: It is God’s mercy that shakes your foundations now, because, at death, see, we all find out there’s only foundation that lasts for eternity—Christ, and Christ alone. Or as I love to repeat, **Only one life to live, ‘twill soon be past! Only what’s done for Christ will last.**

Works consulted:

“Introduction to Luke 1–9,” The Bible Project

Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Luke, commentary, Thabiti M. Anyabwile

“Saved or Self-Deceived” (Matthew 7:21–27), John MacArthur

“Lord, Lord? I Never Knew You” (Matthew 7:21–23), Paul Washer

“Integrity” (Luke 6:39–49), Tim Keller

“Wise Man, Foolish Man, Matthew 7,” Tony Evans

Because, you realize this: Vaccine or not, we are all going to die eventually. Rich or poor, we're all going to die. Republican or Democrat, this whole generation of Americans is gonna die. If this election season goes on much longer, we probably are going to wish that happened sooner rather than later. But eventually, we are all going to die, and we all need Jesus.

Luke 6, if you have your Bible. This is one of Jesus' most recognized parables==It's about two men who built nearly identical houses, geographically close to each other, but on two different kinds of foundations. One man, whom Jesus calls foolish, builds his house right on the sandy shore. The other pulled back a few dozen yards so he could build it on a rock.

I want us to look at this story in context, because Jesus tells it as **both a warning and a promise:** **Luke 6:43** "A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren't gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. (no, the kind of fruit is consistent with the root. In the same way,) 45 A good person (a righteous person, a godly person) produces good out of the good stored up in his heart. An evil person produces evil out of the evil stored up in his heart, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say? 47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn't shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the sand without a foundation. The river crashed against it, and immediately it collapsed. And the destruction of that house was great."

When interpreting the Bible, context is always king. The story of the wise man and foolish man is in a section where Jesus is **warning us about something**. And what is he warning us about?

- Well, if you read back in the chapter, you'll see that he's talking to a **bunch of religious people** and he's warning them that a lot of people think they're right with God but they're wrong.

It's important to note that Jesus **in this passage** is **not talking about people who are flagrantly hypocritical:** who live double-lives, **faking church on the weekend while sleeping around**, doing drugs and cheating on their taxes.

- His main audience is Pharisees and religious Jews. He's talking about sincere religious people who are self-deceived.

He gives **3 qualities of the self-deceived religious person:**

Vs. 43: They don't bear spiritual fruit. They say all the right things and they hang out in all the right places (house looks good / tree in the right garden), but when you look closely at their lives, the evidence of an encounter with Jesus isn't there.

- What am I talking about? Evidences of the new birth: a growing love for Jesus and a desire to be with him. A love for his people. A growing dislike of sin and an attraction to Christlikeness.
- **These things don't appear in you all at once**, but someone who is really right with God will see evidences of their growth, even if gradual.
- **Just like you check someone's pulse** and breath to see if they are physically alive, these things show whether or not you are spiritually alive.
 - One of my favorite analogies for this: **The wind was really boisterous this week** and our power went out. Say you saw the place where the powerline had been cut--and it's one of the big wires, coming out of the transformer. And you said, "I wonder if that's a live wire?" You put it in your mouth and say, "Oh yeah, I feel it. That's a strong current!" But then you put the wire down and keep walking. We'd say, 'No way...'
 - ****Question: Does your life show the evidence of God at work in you?**
 - Are you growing in your love for Jesus?
 - Are you zealous to see other people come to know Jesus? It's impossible to really believe the gospel and not yearn to see others that you love come to know him.
 - Do you **find the commands of Christ burdensome**, or are you drawn toward them, even when they are hard? Or are you one of those people who are like, "Oh, there's all this stuff in the world I love--I really want to be there, in the world--but I'm a Christian and that's against the rules."
 - **You're here at church, but are you here for the right reason?** Are you here because you love the people of God and the word of God, or are you here because you think it will **make your mom happy**, or because **you think it will make God love you more**.
 - **Does your heart show evidence of spiritual life?**
 - *The question is not whether or not you want to go to Heaven or Hell--everybody wants to go to heaven--it's whether or not God has worked in your heart so that you want God.* Everyone I know wants to go to Heaven. The question is whether or not you desire to meet God when we get there.¹ **A desire for God, not a desire for heaven**, is the evidence of God's work in you.
 - The question to focus on is not whether you've prayed a prayer. It's whether God has changed your heart. **I've heard it said like this:** "If you set a field on fire every venomous snake in that field will slither away. But the snakes are still venomous even after they've fled the field."
 - If I ask you whether you are Christian, don't just tell me about a prayer that you've prayed to escape hell. Tell me about the **evidence of God at work in your life**.
 - **And that shows up in spiritual fruit--fruit the people closest to you can see**. Not fruit you "put on" when you come to church. I often say it this way: If your friends who know you away from church can't see plainly that you're born again--if they wouldn't say, "Oh yeah, she's different"--then you're probably not. If your mom can't give clear evidence that you're born again, it's probably because you haven't been.

¹ From Paul Washer, message on Matthew 7:21–23

So, the 1st characteristic is they don't show spiritual fruit. The second characteristic, **vs. 46. They don't do what Jesus says**. This is more straightforward. These religious people have turned to Jesus as a fire escape, or a helper, or a religious model, but they are not fully surrendered to do what he says. But why would you call him, "Lord, Lord," and not do what he says?

- Here's the areas I see this happen most often in our church:
 - in regards to someone's finances. They worship Jesus all day long but they don't obey him there.
 - Or as it pertains to the surrender of their career or dreams. You want to be a good moral person but YOU still want to choose the trajectory of your life. Have you ever come to a point where you said, "Jesus, All that I am, all that I have, all that I forever hope to be I now and forever surrender to you," and put your life down like a blank check before Jesus? If not, then he's not your Lord.
 - Or maybe it's in **regards to some relationship you won't surrender**. You want Jesus, but you don't want to give up that relationship.
 - Or maybe it's regarding some command you don't want to obey--offering forgiveness or owing up to the truth.
 - Jesus, Luke 6:46. "And why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do the things I say?"
- Think of it like this: **Illus. 3 cards: NO / LORD; ~~NO~~ / LORD and NO / ~~LORD~~** These two words cannot stand side by side. We have to cross one of the words out. In any area where you've said no to Jesus, he's not your Lord. If you call him 'Lord' of your life, then you must forever cross out the word No."
- My dad used to say: **He's either Lord of all, or not Lord at all**. In every heart there is a throne and a cross...

First characteristic, they don't bear spiritual fruit. Second characteristic, they don't do what Jesus says. Third characteristic: **vs. 49, Their faith falls apart in the storm**. This is where this story ties to the other 2 points. Jesus's point is that these two houses look alike. From a distance, you'd assume they exactly were the same. It was what was below the surface that was different. One was built on the rock and the other built on the sand, and the storm revealed that.

- **The point is that there are people whose lives look alike**--they go to the same church, believe the same things, live by the same general morals, but one's faith is real and one is not, and the storm reveals that.
- There are people whose walk with Jesus looks fine until things gets hard. Until God doesn't answer some prayer the way that they want. Or until it's really unpopular with their friends. Or until obedience to Jesus means walking away from something you really want.
- You realize, **we love to talk about coming to Jesus** as fulfillment and peace and healing and salvation, and it is all those things, but at some point obedience to Jesus is going to take you 180 degrees opposite the direction that you think you want to go. And in that moment it gets revealed whether or not you've ever left all to follow Jesus.
- The **storm reveals whether or not your hope was in God** or in what you thought he'd do for you. There are a lot of people who fall away from God in a storm because their hope was never in God it was in their assumption that living a religious life would keep them in sunny weather all the time.

Again, the difference in these two lives is not what they believe. The **houses look the same**. It's in how much their lives are actually built on what they believe. The one with the solid foundation is the one who **vs. 47, ...hears my words, and acts on them."**

According to Jesus, **your destiny is not determined by what you say you believe**, but by what your life demonstrates you believe. **Friend, I hope you'll pay attention** to this because it is a **major theme of Jesus'** teaching. Not everyone who calls Jesus Lord is going to heaven!

- **In Matthew's parallels account** of this same teaching, where he records Jesus telling the story of the wise man/foolish man and the two different kinds of trees, Jesus adds one other story:

Matthew 7:21–22 ESV "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'"

Underline the words **"says"** and **"does"**

- **What do they say? Lord, Lord."** **They have the right theology!** They know when to say Amen and put their hands up in worship. They even say it twice, which means they mean it.
- **And watch this. Not only do they have zeal in worship and theology**, they have zeal in ministry. They prophesied (which means 'preached') in Jesus' name, they cast out demons in Jesus' name and did miracles in his name. **These are not sideline people**. I don't know what kind of church you grew up in, but in my church if you got picked to be on the demon-exorcism squad, that's Varsity! These are not people who slide into the service late and leave early. These are pastors, elders, deacons, ministers, missionaries.
- **Matthew 7:23: "And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Oh, this sends a tremor of terror down my spine.** These people confess Jesus, but Jesus does not confess them. Why? They "always work lawlessness/evil." They never actually surrendered to Jesus. **Though they were around Jesus all the time**, and built their houses to look like Jesus' houses, and decorated their houses with Christian art, and their trees in Jesus's garden, they never fully yielded to Jesus. And Jesus says, "I never even knew you. You knew of me, but I never actually knew you--the kind of knowledge that comes from just surrendering your life to me and hoping in me as your Savior."

Friends, please pay attention to this. Not everyone who calls Jesus 'Lord' actually belongs to him. The difference between the saved and the unsaved is not what their mouth says they believe; it's what their life demonstrates they believe.

You say, "I thought we were saved by faith alone--by believing Christ as our Savior and trusting in his work alone to save us." We are, but the kind of faith that saves is faith that reorients your whole life. The kind of faith that puts the roots of your life into gospel soil and builds the foundation of your life on gospel truth.

You see, there's 2 ways to tell what you really believe. There's what your mouth says you believe and what your LIFE says you believe. Which one is more reliable? God looks at your life as a better indicator of what you believe than your mouth. **The question: Does your LIFE say Jesus is Lord?**

2 Cor 13:5 says, “Examine yourselves, to see if you are actually in the faith. Test yourselves.” See if there’s evidence of the new birth in you.

I remember a poem I heard when I was a kid that I’ve never forgotten:

Why Do You Call Me Lord, Lord, and Do Not the Things I Say?

You call Me the Way, and walk Me not.

You call Me the Life, and live Me not.

You call Me Master, and obey Me not.

You call Me Bread, and eat Me not.

You call Me Truth, and believe Me not.

You call Me Lord, and serve Me not.

If I condemn you, blame Me not.

“Depart from me, you that work iniquity. I never knew you.”

3 characteristics of spiritual impostors; of people in the church who look like they are right with God but aren’t. *They don’t bear spiritual fruit; they don’t do what Jesus says; their faith falls apart in the storm.*

Are these true of you?

If so, maybe you say, “What do I do?” That’s the good news! You **embrace Christ**. Embrace that there is nothing you can do to save yourself; he’s the only one who can save you. He paid your full sin debt on the cross and offers to give you that and come into your life and make you a new creation. Right now. Where you sit. **Embrace that with your heart** and **yield complete control** over your life to him, and if you do he will come into your heart and save you.

(VAMP)

Hey, I have **one other thing I want to do with this passage**, before I do, could we just **stop right here**, right now and give you a chance to do that? BOW HEADS

If you prayed that, I want you to **text READY to 33933**.

Before I close, I want to flip this around, because there is a promise inherent in this passage. And that is that for those who build their lives on Jesus, their foundation will endure any storm! Why? Because they have a foundation that never crumbles.

Your foundation is whatever you build your life on. Whatever has to be present in your life for your life to feel secure; for you to have joy. This is what you serve, what you strive after, what you turn to in trouble, what you can’t live without.

The bad news: All other foundations--even good ones--apart from Jesus, will crumble.

I want to read you something from my new book, *WYD?* There's a young mother in our church who last year went in for a routine eye exam when she received devastating news. The doctor told her that she had developed a degenerative and incurable condition that would take her sight in less than 5 years. Up until this moment, she had no idea anything was even wrong! She was **in her mid-30's**, and she has 4 children. **If things go as the doctors predict**, she'll never see them graduate.

Just a couple of weeks before the doctor visit, she had asked God to guide her to a "theme verse" for the year. God had led her to 2 Corinthians 4:16–18:

Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

She wrote in her journal that day, "God help me to trust in things not seen. Help me to fix my eyes, thoughts, and affections not on the temporary, but on the eternal."

Here's what she shared with me:

As I listened to the news of my diagnosis, I heard in my heart God speak over me truth: 'So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen.' This is not an affliction God has done to me, but something he has entrusted to me. I was reminded of Jesus' words to his disciples when they came across a blind man: This has come to pass so that the work of God could be displayed.

God has shown me more of him in the midst of this suffering. Looking back on that prayer from January, I realize now that God was preparing me to hear this news. Already God has used this diagnosis to help me fix my eyes on him, to help me to depend on him, to grow my spiritual sight. Jesus is far sweeter and more valuable in suffering than when I think I can do life on my own. And as painful as it has been, I'm learning what it means that my spiritual sight is far more valuable than my physical sight.

I do not bank my hope on any healing for my coming blindness, as there is none. I bank my hope on the suffering Savior, Jesus Christ, who is far more precious than sight, or my ability to drive, or walk independently, or see my four children's faces. These things are inconsequential in light of eternity.

Shortly after my diagnosis, I was praying when I saw a vision in my mind. Jesus was leading me, blindfolded, in the midst of the most beautiful landscape I've ever seen. Once I got to an overlook, Jesus took my blindfold off. In that moment, I realized God was showing me I can trust my good Father even

with a blindfold in his hands. I can give up my sight for a short time here on earth because I trust my Father knows what's best for me, always working for my good and for his glory. Because what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal.

Could you be like this in a moment of similar tragedy?

What's your foundation? Here's another way of asking it. What is there, that if taken out of your life, would make life not worth living? What has to be present in your life for you to feel fulfilled and engaged? A good marriage. A close-knit family. Kids that adore you? A reliable job or solid bank account? The **right party** in office. **Can you trust your Heavenly Father even with a blindfold in his hands?**

Whatever you say in answer to that question constitutes your foundation. And, bad news, all of them will crumble. The good news is that when it's Jesus, in any storm you stand secure because you know he has power over the storm and preserve and provide for you in any storm.

I saw this picture from a couple of years ago of this house on one of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey, one of the worst hurricanes to make landfall in US history.



You see it? One house! His neighbors on either side got wiped clean. They **interviewed the builder**. He said, *“Yeah, I built this house with this storm in mind.”* He went **WAY beyond code**. He used 40-foot pilings; he made the house with breakaway walls so that when the winds tore them, there wouldn’t be structural damage.

Think about that statement: **I built this house with that storm in mind.** God provided a foundation in Jesus with all of life’s storms in mind.

So, when you struggle and fall, his death is sufficient to cover and forgive you.

When you feel like you have no strength, his resurrection is sufficient to empower you.

When you feel lost, his Spirit is sufficient to guide you.

When you have nothing left and you’re running on empty, the riches of his mercy is sufficient to satisfy you.

God provided a foundation in Jesus with all of life’s storms in mind. *How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord; Is laid for your faith in His excellent word; What more can He say than to you He has said; To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood, my 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.

In this season, has God been shaking you? Is that what he's doing? Have areas of disobedience been revealed?

God consistently reveals to me the areas I am not surrendered to him by making them fall apart. And when **they do I despair. When an area of my life that is surrendered to Jesus goes through a storm**, I say, "No matter--Jesus, you have this. I am doing what you want, and so this area belongs to you and I'll trust you to provide."

Do you have areas you need to put under his control? What might those areas be for you?