

Matt 7:24-27



24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. **25** "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. **26** "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. **27** "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

When I was 11, my parents moved the family from the LA area to Fresno. Shortly after moving there, friends of ours began coming up to visit. Specifically Jerry and Peggy Bileu who would typically come up in the summer and bring with them an army of young people from, what was then the Sepulveda congregation. The first few times we would camp out at Millerton Lake. Now, if you have ever had the displeasure of swimming or skiing at Millerton, you will know that the shore tends to be very loose and sandy dirt. I have sank to my mid calf while standing at the waters edge. Maybe you have had a similar eerie experience of standing on the shore at the ocean and having waves wash over your feet and felt the sand wash out from under you while you stood there. This is what happened to the foolish man's house. He had built it on sand, a weak and moving foundation. There was no structure to the foundation that the house stood on and when the rain water began to wash the sand out from under it, the house had nothing to stand on and collapsed. It sank just like we do when the wave washes the sand from under us.

Now there is another dynamic at play here. Have you ever been to the big city? You know, like San Francisco or New York or someplace like that. I know, that's a silly question, but one of the things that cities like that have in common are their skylines, the massive skyscrapers that dot the horizon. I have always been fascinated by those enormous buildings, and when I walk around those places I am the typical country bumpkin tourist staring up at the tops of those buildings. What's interesting is that when they get ready to demolish one of those buildings they don't start at the top and remove layer by layer, they place a few strategically located explosive devices around the foundation and when the foundation is destroyed, that bid massive structure that can withstand the winds of a hurricane or an the effects of an earthquake crumbles to the ground.

The foolish man's house did just that when the foundation it was standing on washed away. It is inherent in the nature of man to want a solid base under foot, something that they can stand on and have the confidence that it is not going to collapse. Consider, that a man or a house, if you will, is only as strong as that upon which they stand. We call this the weakest link principle. Remember the demolition of those massive buildings? Take out the his legs and even the strongest of men fall. In,

Matt 16:13-19



13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

3 **17** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. **19** "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Christ uses this analogy to illustrate the strength of the foundation of the Church. Jesus said that He would build the Church, His Kingdom, on the only foundation that would truly be unshakable and last forever, the fact that...

4 *He is the only Son of the True and Living God*

The rock that is immovable, enduring, and always will be. Our topic for this lesson is going to be that

5 *ROCK*

The Roman Catholics would have us to believe that **6** Peter is the rock that Christ is discussing. They base this on the language that Christ uses in His discussion with Peter. But on a closer examination, Jesus makes a very distinct separation between Peter, the Greek word Petros, **7** masculine in nature and meaning stone, as opposed to the Greek word Petra, **8** which is feminine in nature and meaning...

“A ledge of Rock”

The Latter Day Saints, the Mormons, teach that it is the fact that God **9** *revealed* the knowledge to Peter, and that is the rock, that the foundation of the Church is a continuing revelation. Does that sound familiar?

So the question must be asked, are these ideas even possible with regard to what the scriptures teach? Note what Peter says in...

Acts 4:7-11 **10**

7 And when they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, **9** if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, **10** let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by this name this man stands here before you in good health. **11** "He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very corner stone.

1 Cor 3:10-11 **11**

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:18-22 **12**

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **20** having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Friends, it could not be any plainer to someone who will read God's word and accept it without prejudice or compromise and with an open mind, that Jesus was, in fact, talking about Himself as the foundation of the Church. **13** He was not talking about Peter, nor continuing revelation, nor any other perverted idea that man can come up with. In...

Matt 5:17 **14**

17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

Jesus was teaching His Disciples and by extension us, that for a new law to be valid, one of two things had to occur. Either the old law had to be done away with, abolished, or it had to have fulfilled its purpose thereby becoming no longer relevant or valid. In

Isa 28:16

15

16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Note the term "**disturbed**", this isn't talking about our emotional state, or lack thereof, it is talking about the stability of the foundation, the corner stone, that when built upon is solid and eternal.

16 Remember that Christ said He came not to destroy the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them. Isaiah said that the stone which would become the foundation of the Church, would be tested, tried, in...

Heb 4:15

17

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin .

Jesus knows what we go through as men. He had the same emotions and desires that we do. He faced the same temptations that we do, but He did not give in. He lived His life without sin. Tested and tried and proven worthy. In

Ps 118:22

18

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.

Mark 8:31

19

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Jesus was prophesied to be the corner stone, tested and tried, yet rejected. Peter summarizes these thoughts in...

1 Peter 2:6-8

20

6 For this is contained in Scripture:

"Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,"

The ROCK, **21** not Peter, not continuing revelation, but Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God, God Himself, is the foundation of the Church that He purchased as only He could, with a perfect sacrifice, freely offered, both physical and spiritual. It is upon the perfection of His humanity and the righteousness of His Deity that the Church is founded. Christ and the Church He established is the stone talked about in Daniel that grew into the whole world and will last eternally. As the Church universal, is built upon these facts, so also is every individual, the very components of the Church. And because we as Christians standing upon Christ as our foundation, we are to...

22

1) Stand on him

- 2) Lean on Him
- 3) Use Him, Rely on Him as our Foundation

Just as Christ used His Father in **Matt 4:1-11**, where we read about Satan taking Jesus into the wilderness to tempt Him, when we read about Christ being tempted we see his answer to be, "it is written."

The problem is that man today thinks he knows better. We compromise our faith, we limit God's Word, we allow our prejudice and bias to taint our understanding of God's truth. We miss the fact that the real impact of what Peter is saying begins in...

1 Peter 2:8-10 23

8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy

Peter is saying that as firm and solid a foundation as Christ is, He is also the instrument of destruction to all who choose to disobey, who choose to reject, sound familiar, being a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, quite simply, God's.

Acts 2:37 24

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

This is how those that were there on the day of Pentecost and had heard Peter's sermon responded. Peter had just told these people that this Jesus who they had demanded to be crucified, this Jesus is the Son of God, He is the messiah, He is the one and only foundation of the Church, and yes He is the savior, the only one through whom freedom from the burden of our sin can be found.

Do you see what the account here in Acts shows. Just like those who heard Peter's sermon, we have to decide whether or not we accept the facts and the testimony and the evidence. Is this Jesus the Son of God as Peter says...

Acts 2:36 25

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."

They knew that they were complicit in having Christ crucified. They knew that they had rejected Him, and in doing so had rejected God and His Word. They knew because they chose to believe the evidence. That decision demanded that they respond to that belief. You can't claim to believe if you choose not to act.

James 2:14-17 26

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? **15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? **17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

James is adamant that faith must be combined with works to put man into a position where the blood of Christ can cleanse him from the burden of sin. Here is where so many adulterate the Word of God. James is not saying that salvation is in any way earned, it cannot be.

Eph 2:4-9

27

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God, in His grace and mercy, sent Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, the messiah, to be the foundation that those who would have a righteous relationship with God must stand on, and the Savior of any and all who would be free from their sin. Look at the value of that gift. What can any man do, what great deed is there, that can possibly compare to the grace and mercy that God offers through Jesus Christ? There is none. Period. That said, if you go to the local auto dealer and see the new truck you want but it costs \$35,000 and you can only afford \$10,000, you don't get the new truck. But if as you are leaving, the owner of the dealership comes to you and says give me your money and here the keys to that new truck. Did you buy it? Does the \$10,000 you gave him equate to the value of the truck that you received? Obviously not. He gave you that truck even though you had to contribute something to the equation. Think of it as a math problem...

28

God's grace and mercy + your faith and obedience (works) = salvation

Mind you, this is not the same as...

29

Your faith and obedience = God's grace and mercy

Do you see the difference? What we do in faithful obedience, anything we do in faithful obedience can't possibly equate to the value of what God has done for us. Therefore his gift is a free gift and cannot be earned by anything we do. But that in no way negates the absolute fact that we must do something. We must be faithful in our obedience, in our love, compassion, and kindness. If we choose to believe, we must choose to obey, otherwise our belief becomes invalid and false. Those in **Acts 2** chose to believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. They chose to act on their belief and stand on the fact that Jesus is that Christ, the Son of God. They chose Christ as their foundation to build on.

What foundation are you going to build your house, your life, your future, your eternity on? Is it on the pleasures of this world, riches, popularity, your own inestimable brilliance, the fact that you are the smartest person you know and you trust more in your own intelligence than in God?

OR

Maybe God's Word has touched your heart, and like those in **Acts 2** you have decided to ask God what must you do?

Remember the passage we looked at in Acts 4:7-11? Here is the 12th verse...

Acts 4:12

30

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."