

On Christ the Solid Rock



Matthew 7:24–29

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Several years ago, I went to New York City. I took my wife for her thirtieth birthday. I surprised her and planned the whole trip. Neither one of us has ever been but I've seen New York in pictures and on TV. So, when we begin our descent into the airport and I could see the buildings, it was unbelievable how big New York City really is; I just couldn't get over how big the buildings are. We spent the next few days just walking around, and almost everywhere we walked, we were looking up the whole time because everything about New York is straight up. We would ride in open top tour buses out in the open air where we could just look up. They would tell us all the cool things that happened with this building and that building, who did what and where, and we were just captivated by how big everything is and how everything goes straight up. Well, we looked up almost all the time except for one moment when we went to the 911 Memorial Museum and Ground Zero. I was 18 when 911 happened, so I remember very vividly seeing those planes crashing to the World Trade Center. Growing up

in that post-911 world, going there was something me and Katie definitely wanted to do. We are at the site where the Twin Towers used to be, but now instead of looking up, we started looking down. We could see these waterfalls that cascade into this void in this ongoing memory of almost three thousand people who lost their lives that day in a tragic, tragic event. And then, in the museum you get to actually walk down into where the Trade Centers foundations are. I never will forget when we walked down those steps, looking over and seeing this giant concrete pillar, this huge foundation block, and I began to read how these Twin Towers were built. They didn't just build them on top of soil, they didn't just build them on top of the ground, but instead, in order for these huge buildings to stand tall and withstand storms, winds, and rains, they had to build down, not just down, but really deep down. The foundation went seventy feet into the ground — seventy feet down! As we walked down, we could see the foundations and the cables that held the foundations. We soon realized that the reason these buildings were able to withstand wind and rain, and normal wear and tear was because they weren't just built on top of the ground; instead, there was a foundation, seventy feet into the ground. I had been walking around New York City for three days, looking up, but I didn't realize that every one of those buildings are standing up and aren't toppling over because they have a giant foundation underneath them. I had to realize that, really, the most important thing about a building is not the building itself but the foundation that it's on.

I think we, as people, are similar to my experience in New York City. We see each other, we look at and up at each other and we see what's visible, but what we don't see is the foundation of each other's lives. We don't see what we are standing on. I can't see what your life is built on. I can see you, I can see your life, I can see your house, I can see the windows and the doors, I can see the roof line, but what I can't see is what you are standing on. I can't see the foundation. Jesus going to tell a vivid illustration to show it really matters what you stand on. If you are standing on anything other than Christ, it will not stand. Only a life built on Christ will stand.

Scripture

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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. 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. 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." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."

Since we are ending this sermon series, let's just summarize quickly what Jesus has been doing. He walked up on a mount. We have followers and fans who are listening to Jesus as He starts talking about these beatitudes. He says some crazy things like, blessed are you who are poor in spirit, and who mourn, and are persecuted, and are hungry and thirsty — things that we think are bad, He is saying blessed are you when you are like this — and He has given us this way to flourish in the Kingdom of God. It's knowing that you are bankrupt and your only hope is in Christ, and He is giving us a way to live this out. And then, as you find that way to flourishing, you become salt and light in a world that is both dark and decaying. You get to be salt. You get to be light. And then, He started telling His listeners that we have to have a greater righteousness than the scribes and the Pharisees. The scribes and the Pharisees had external righteousness. They were good on the outside. They followed all the rules. They look good and smell good, but on the inside, they weren't righteous, so Jesus says you have to have a greater righteousness. What is that? An inner righteousness, a righteousness that works from the inside out. And He says you must be perfect, which means whole. You must be whole like God is whole, perfect like God is perfect. We know that means not having just outer righteousness but that inner righteousness that's greater than the scribes and the Pharisees, and He gives all these examples. It's not enough just obey the law but you actually have to, from your heart, love

the things that God has revealed in the law. We love God from the inside out and we practice piety when we pray and when we give. When we do those things, it's not to be seen by others but it's because we actually love God. It's because we are actually followers of God. He has given this idea that when it comes to the Kingdom of God you can't just look the part; it has to be something from the inside out. The only way we get inside out righteousness, the only way we get whole righteousness, greater righteousness than the scribes and the Pharisees is when we repent and believe in Christ, and then we get His very righteousness put in our account. See, Christ died and rose again, and when He ascended to the right hand of His Father, He said any who believe in Him will be saved. When we become Christians, when we believe in Christ, all of a sudden we get Christ in us, the hope of glory. It's not just Christ rose from the dead, it's Christ also dwells in you now, and with Christ in you, you can walk in the Spirit and not gratify the desires of your flesh. So, it's this sense of following God not just from the outside but actually from the inside out. And then, He says this is something you can only get by entering the narrow gate and that narrow gate is Him. In fact, many are going to say, "Lord, Lord," many are going to have a profession but not everyone is going to possess faith in the Lord Jesus; it is about your relationship with Christ.

Now, Jesus is going to end the sermon with this vivid illustration on what is your life built on. Is it built on Christ or is it built on something else? We are going to see there are two builders, there are two houses, and there are two inns. First, let's look at the two builders. Notice what He says in verse 24, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them..." that is an important little phrase, who hears them and does them. Then He gives us an example, an illustration, "...will be like a wise man who builds his house on the rock." So, the first builder who's building a house, Jesus says, he's actually a wise man because he builds his house on a rock. Well, what does it mean by building your house on the rock? It's the person who hears the words of Jesus and does them. In other words, you don't just listen to Jesus, but because Jesus is your Lord, you come under His authority, you take the words that Jesus tells you, and you build your life on them. They become your rock. They become your foundation.

Now, of course we know that Jesus' dad was a carpenter and he would have been a carpenter by trade growing up. Scholars disagree on whether this would have been woodwork, like building cabinets and tables, or if he was a mason where he's doing a work with his hands, and block, and laying foundations. But if you go to the Palestinian area, and Nazareth, most everything is out of block, so there's a good chance he was dealing with block a lot. So Jesus, not only is He the Son of God who knows everything, but He's also a tradesman who knows the importance of when you build a house you need to make sure you have a good foundation. That's really important. Go home today and just look underneath your house, there is a foundation — blocks, or a concrete slab that the house sits on. If your two by sixes are on the dirt, you are in trouble because that's not a foundation and it's not going to last. It might look good but you have to build your house on a foundation, and Jesus knew that principle from working with His hands and seeing houses around His neighborhood.

So, Jesus is giving this imagery that every wise person built their house on a foundation. He is using that illustration to say this mirrors a wise person in spiritual things. A wise person in spiritual things doesn't just *hear* what He's saying; they build their lives on the words He says. They build their lives on the Word of God, because notice, He says, "these words of mine." Now, in the immediate context, this is the Sermon on the Mount and they just heard a sermon; these are the words of Jesus. But as we pull back in Scripture a little bit, what we find in Luke 24 is He's going to ask His disciples if they were slow to hear all that the prophets said. He said, beginning with Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms (which, by the way, is the entire Old Testament) that all of this was pointing to Him. It's all a story about Him. It's all His words declaring who He is as *the* Word, who is going to come and save you from your sins. So, obeying the words of Jesus is not just obeying the words in red; it is all of Scripture that is all breathed out by God. Jesus is God, so all of the Scripture is about His words. So what do you do with the words of Jesus? What do you do with the Scriptures? Do you build your lives upon them? Or, do you just decide that you like this but you don't like that, so you go yes here and no there? Well, that's a person who isn't building on rock. That's not building on the

foundation that Jesus has given to us. A wise man builds his house on the rock.

In verse 26, we see that we not only have a wise man but we also have a foolish man, "And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who builds his house on the sand."

Notice the difference. The wise man hears the words of Jesus and does them, and I think that "and does them" means that you say yes. You build your life on them. You are saying, 'Jesus, you are my Lord. You have spoken. I'm going to build my life on what you reveal, not what I feel.'

That's a big because often we want to obey what we feel rather than what God has revealed, but Jesus says if you want a life built on the rock, it's the other way around. You obey what's revealed, not what you feel. He says it's the one who hears and does. But there's another — a foolish person, who hears and they do not do. I mean, just look at it...these are stark words, "and does not do them." That's a problem, someone who hears and does not do them, and Jesus says I'll tell you what he's like...he's like a foolish man who builds his house on the sand.

I know you are thinking that nobody would build their house on sand, maybe a sand castle, but not a real house. Why does Jesus use this really silly illustration about building house on sand? Well, maybe He is using hyperbole and He's not actually talking about a house that's built on sand because He knows how foolish that would be. But in research and looking at the historical scene back in Palestine during Jesus' day, what would happen is the Sea of Galilee would rise and fall. It's like Kentucky Lake, it rises and falls, and you might be boating and everything's great, or you might be boating and everything isn't great, like you hit something. So, the Sea of Galilee would rise and fall, and often when the Sea of Galilee fell down, the water is less, then what used to be submerged in water is now a beach. But there was a certain texture of sand that would actually turn into what seemed like concrete; it was almost like a stone surface. It would appear as hard as rock. So if you are a builder and you want to save some time, and you don't want to dig down into bedrock because that takes effort and you have to get tools, you are like...*Hey honey, how about we build here? It's flat and it's hard and guess what? It's right by the beach. I*

built you a beach house. So, you lay some stones and you build it on them, and now you got a beach house, and you are wondering why nobody else has a beach house. Everyone else is way up the hill and you are down here because it's level, it's hard, and the stones have settled good. You have a nice house. The problem, of course, as everyone listening to Jesus' illustration knows is that when the sea rises, the water comes back up. When the water touches the sand, it turns back into loose sand and everything you've built crumbles. So, it's a foolish thing to build your life on sand. It's a foolish thing to build your house on sand because sand is not going to hold your life or your house.

And so, what's the difference? The fool hears but doesn't do. James, the brother of Jesus, I think remembers these words very vividly, and he would say this in James 1:22, "but be doers of the Word and not hearers only," and notice that last line, "deceiving yourselves." So James writes to the church and says don't just hear the Word of God but do it. Build your life on it. Practice it. Actually, make Jesus your Lord and obey what the Word says so that you are building your life on His Word. You are not just hearing and walking away, but instead you are practicing it, you are doing it, and then he says not deceiving yourselves. He is saying it's deception to just hear the words and then walk out. How is it deception? Because by hearing the Word, you think you have built a good house. By just hearing God's Word, you think you have been obedient. Just by listening to God's Word, you can check that off, everything's good in your life because you have heard the Word, you have read the Word, you have studied the Word, check, check, check, must have a good house. That must be enough for me to have a great life and a great house. You have a lot of input in your brain so you have a lot of information. And James says you are deceiving yourself if it's only information that's not leading to transformation, if you are not building your life on Christ, if you are not building your life on what He has said. So, the fool just hears.

This is wisdom that Jesus is giving, this idea of a fool and a wise person. The whole book of Proverbs is about a foolish person and a wise person. In Proverbs 3:5-6, it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your

paths straight." The writer of Proverbs is giving us some of that same instruction of "trust in the Lord," that is "build your house on the rock" language. But he doesn't just say that, he has to add this caveat of and "lean not on understanding." Why does he have to then tell us that? Why is it not enough to say trust in the Lord? It's because we will think we are trusting in the Lord, while actually we are leaning on our own understanding. It's what we hear of the Word that make sense that we apply to our lives, but those things that don't make sense, that we don't want and we don't like, we will throw those out and we will lean on our understanding rather than God's revelation. We think we can do it rather than knowing it's only in Christ that we are made right with God.

Then, Proverbs tells us we are to submit to the Lord. Now, we do not like that. We don't like to submit to anyone. We are free people. We are self-determining. We get to say and do what we want, how we want. And what wisdom is, is submitting to the Lord, trusting Him. What He says is what you are banking on and building your life on. The fool, instead, just listens and then does whatever they want.

So, Jesus has given these two different people, two different builders; there's the wise person who listens and does, and there's the fool who listens and then just walks away and does whatever they want, builds whatever house they want. Let's just pause for a moment and just ask the question. What kind of builder are you? Which builder am I? Am I the fool who comes, hears the sermon, walks out, and does whatever I want? Or, am I a wise person who listens, reads the Bible, hears Jesus, and then I come under His Lordship and I say yes to Jesus, and I build my life on what He says — I actually do it, I obey, I listen and do the Word of God? In other words, I want you to ask this question. What are you standing on right now? Are you standing on the rock? Which, I think we automatically know from this text, the rock is Christ, He is the rock, He is the sure foundation. Are you standing on Christ, or you standing on anything else? What is your life being built on right now? Is it built on Christ, or is it built on your wisdom? Is it Christ, or is it your goodness?

I loved in Carly's testimony when I get to meet with her, she said, "You know, I was a pretty good person. I was a good mom, good wife, good

teacher, good student, and a good daughter. I was a good person, but the Lord revealed to me that I was good but I wasn't godly, and that there was a giant difference." See, I can be good, I can have a house that looks good, seems good, and feels good, and everyone looks at me and says I am a good person, but there's difference in being godly, doing good things for the glory of Christ. Christ in you living through you, those fruits of the Spirit exuding from you — that's a different place. You can be righteous or you can have a greater righteousness that exceeds the scribes and the Pharisees and that is a Christ righteousness in you working outward. See, it's not just good enough to be good; you can have a good house built on sand and it's not going to last. It's only those who are godly. It's only those who have been put in Christ and who have built their lives on Him that are going to sustain the storms. Is your life built on success? Is it built on a relationship, a life plan, a sports team, a pleasure, a sexuality, a political party? Is it a goal? Is it your family? Is it your dream? What is the thing that you are standing on? What is the thing you are building everything from? What's your identity? What's the most important part of you? What is that foundation that everything else is built off of? Christ is trying to tell you the storms are coming and the only life that will last is a life that's built on Christ. Everything else will fall. Everything else will be destroyed. It's only a life built on Christ that will last.

So we have two builders, wise and fool, and then we have just in the story, we get two houses. These two builders, they build two houses, and as Jesus tells a story, our imaginations can't help but formulate these houses in our mind. When I was talking about the beach house, you already had in your mind that the windows were open and you can smell the air. You can just picture what the beach house you would build looks like. And then, you have that rock foundation, you can already see blocks, you can see a house, you can see windows and doors and a yard. You have already got it landscaped. You can't help but build these houses in your mind. That's how stories work. So we don't just have two builders, we have two houses, and here's what I want you to notice — in these two houses, you probably wouldn't be able to tell them apart. You probably wouldn't know which house is good and which house is faulty. In other words, you can't tell the sturdiness of a house by just looking at it because they both would have

looked good. They both had walls and doors, windows, and they both would have been a place you could have gone and had barbecues, ate family dinners, celebrated birthdays and Christmas, and had good times in. The houses would have looked the same. And here, Jesus is talking to a people who are following the scribes and the Pharisees. What are the scribes and the Pharisees teaching them? Do the Law, be good, try hard, God will love you, and they all look like good little houses. Most of them would have been good, little obeyers of God. And they look right, they look good, but the problem is their foundation is sand and it's not going to stand.

See, we all look around and we see each other, and we are looking at each other's houses and we can see there are good people, there are people that are little bit not so good, and we can see each other's houses. We can show through good works and life and different things — we get to see our houses. We don't see is what's underneath them. And what's underneath them is are you really standing on Christ or not? And the unseen is what makes all the difference. The unseen is actually the most important. It's not the house — these are both beautiful houses, but we are going to see that both of them have very different ends. Here's what we see in verse 25, let's look at the how the wise man's house ends first, "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." So, you have two beautiful houses. Everything's going great. Two builders, two houses, and then something happens — a storm comes. Jesus tells what first happens to the wise man's house, and there's a "but" and a "because." So, this storm comes, and it says "but it did not fall." That's a beautiful statement. In other words, the wind pounded it, the rain came on it, the floods rose, but it did not fall. Now, the question is why did it not fall? Why is there a "but it did not fall?" Well, because there's also a "because," "because it was founded on the rock." In other words, the foundation made all the difference. In the storm, as violence raged against it, it's foundation made all the difference. Because it was founded on the rock, it stood.

Now, let's contrast the foolish person's house. Verse 27 says, "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house..." The same storm is happening on both these houses, and notice what it says, "...and it fell." There's not a 'but,' there's not a rescue, there's not a contrast, it just says "and it fell." Even if we can't maybe see how devastating that would be, Jesus paints the picture just a little bit better. He says, "...and great was the fall of it." This is not just like a little damage; it's total destruction. The whole family was swept away in the sea to total destruction. The house falls and great was its fall.

So, two builders, two houses, a storm comes, and the difference is the foundation. The foundation made all the difference and here's the really scary thing — you can fake a house. You can smile, you can look good, you can put on your best and come to church, read your Bible, be in Precept Bible study, go to men's group, and do a Dgroup and have accountability. You can fake a really nice house, but do you know what you can't fake? You can't fake a foundation. You can fake a house, you can fake your life, you can have all the outward marks of a godly person, but on the inside, on your foundation, you are really standing in your own goodness. You are standing on your own self-worth. You are standing on your own effort. You are not standing on Christ. See, it's not how well are you building your house; it's who are you building your house on? It's not just how well am I doing in life, it's who am I building my life on? If the answer is anyone or anything other than Christ, here's the news you need to know — it will fall. It will not stand. What you need is Christ — to stand on Christ, to be secure in Christ, to be on the rock, who is Christ, rather than the sinking sand.

Notice in the text about the house that falls. Jesus doesn't say it falls because it's on sand. The house that stood...He says but it stood because it was built on the rock. But now on the sand...it just says it fell and great was the fall of it. He doesn't say it fell because it was on sand. So why does He not mirror the text? I mean, everything about the text mirrors each other, except for the one who hears and does, and the one who hears and doesn't do. This is the only other thing that doesn't mirror the other section in the text, and I think the reason He *might* be doing this is

because He's not saying the house failed because it was on sand; He's saying the house failed because it was not on rock. The problem is not with sand; the problem is it's not on rock. In other words, if you are thinking maybe I'll just get some really good sand, or some Quikrete, or maybe I will try to figure out a better path, or if I can get a little bit better foundation, maybe it will work — no. He's saying it's not just sand, there is nothing that works apart from Christ. It's not that bad people are on sand and maybe you can just have another religion, or try hard and that's better than — no, it's there's nothing apart from Christ that will hold when the storms come. It's Christ or nothing. It's Christ versus everything. And He is pleading with you, saying the storms are coming, what are you standing on? Are you standing on Christ or anything else? Nothing else will hold you.

So, let's make some comments about the text now that we have said the story and we have built it up. Here's the first comment. Both of both of these people, the wise and the fool, they both heard Jesus. In other words, both these people on this particular day are not out fishing, they are not out playing hooky, they are not getting drunk somewhere, they are not out doing whatever. They are at a sermon gathering, hearing Jesus preach a sermon, so they are at the right place. This is where they should be. They are all hearing the words of Jesus. He is speaking to an audience knowing that everyone there is going to hear but not everyone is going to do. What that means is just because you are here doesn't mean you have your foundation on Christ. Just because you hear sermons, go to Bible studies, read your Bible in the morning, just because you hear the words of Jesus doesn't mean you are standing on Christ. Let that be a little bit of a warning — just because you are here this morning and not there or somewhere else doesn't mean you are standing on Christ, because both of these people, the wise and the fool, both heard the words of Jesus.

The second comment is both of these people built a house. The reality that all of us, everyone in this room, we are building a house, and I think that house is clearly your life. We are all building our lives. We all have some version of what is the good. What is the good way? What is the good life? What is going to lead to happiness, pleasure, and joy? What is good and what is bad? We are all building a life, all of us. We can't help it, just

breathing means you are building. So both of these built a house, and you, no matter who you are, you are building your life right now. You are making decisions, you are making plans, you are acting on desires, you are doing things, or not doing things, and you are saying things or not saying things. You, right now, are building a house. You are building a life.

Number three, when you think about building your life, both of these were building a house but only one of these actually did the words of God. Only one of these didn't just hear the words but actually did the words of God, and in the parable, it makes all the difference. It's to just the one who heard Jesus; it's the one who obeys, the one who does. I know we get a little paranoid when we start talking about works because we know that the gospel is only faith alone in Christ alone, and that is absolutely true. There is no way to do good works and get to God. It is a dead end because your good works are not good. So only faith alone in Christ alone, by grace alone, are we saved. But what we know the reformers would say is true faith is never alone, that true faith always leads to life change; that true faith always leads to good works and obedience. It's like if you see a soldier obeying his superior officer, his obedience doesn't make him a soldier — no, his obedience shows to you that he *is* a soldier, he *is* in the military. His obedience doesn't *make* him a soldier; his obedience shows he *is* a soldier. See, with a Christian, our obedience to Christ, coming under His Lordship, doesn't make us believers but our obedience to Christ will show if we are believers or not. In other words, we can't just say, "Lord, Lord" and then not do what He tells us to do. We can't just say...*Jesus, you are my Lord, but I'm going to go live my life. Jesus, you are my Lord, but I disagree with what you say here so I'm going to do different.* That's not building your life, your house, on the rock; that's building your life on feelings rather than revelation. That's building your life on what you think is good, not what God says is good, holy, and beautiful. There's a difference there. Only one of these actually did the words of God.

The next thing I just want to comment is both of these people experience the storm. The wise and the fool — the one who built his life on the rock and the one who built his life on the sand — they both experienced a storm. Sometimes we can believe if we come to Christ then we're a child of

God, and now, we get all the heavenly privileges and our life will just always go great...*I'll be shielded from every danger and every storm. I've got Christ, so nothing will go bad in my life. There will be no crazy diagnosis. I'm not going to get sick. My spouse will never leave me. My kids will never betray me. Everything in my life will always be good because I'm going to pray about it and if I pray about it and believe enough then everything's going to go great with my life.* But Jesus says both of these, the person who's building their life on Christ, the rock, also meets a storm. If you are a believer, if you are walking with the Lord, it doesn't prevent you from going through storms. Instead, your relationship with Christ will keep you while you are in the storm. That's the hope. That's the promise — not that the storms are going to miss your house. We all remember the tornado last year. It was amazing how some houses were destroyed and some houses were completely untouched. That's not how the storms of life work, that all the Christian homes get avoided and all the non-believing homes get destroyed. No...it's storms, the curse, all of the junk of this world comes at all of us, so how we stand is not by being missed by the storm but having our firm foundation on Christ so that when the storm hits, we can survive it because of the Lord Jesus Christ. So we will face storms just like everyone else. In this text, we see that only one house remained, and it's the one built on Christ. So He is trying to get you to see what is your life built on. What are you standing? Are you standing on Christ or something else?

There is this little epilogue that happens at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Verse 28 says, "And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes." So, we start with the crowd and we start with disciples all gathering to hear Jesus, and then we leave with a crowd that is astonished at Jesus' teaching. He's teaching not as their scribes, but one who has authority and power. Well, there's a reason, because if you read the beginning of Matthew, we know that Jesus is the incarnate Son of God. The virgin birth makes Him different in His teaching. He's teaching as one with authority. He's the Son of God and the King of the Kingdom. He's the one that just says to the waves and wind, "be still," and they stop. He's the one that says to dead people, "rise," and they get

out of the grave. He's the one who goes into the grave Himself and comes out the other side, killing death through His death. He is the one who says I have authority, go, therefore, and make disciples. Jesus is not just speaking as like the sage and wisdom guy. He's speaking as the Son of God, the King of the Kingdom — to say...*Now, build your life on me. I'm here and everything else is bogus. You have to build your life on me, or when the storms come, you will not survive.*

So, what did the crowd do? We don't really know because I'm assuming there's a big crowd here. We know after His death, burial, and resurrection, there are one hundred and twenty of them, and He gave a lot more sermons. So most of these people are just astonished at His teaching but then they just walked away and went home. Do you know what they didn't do? They didn't build their lives on His words. They had good houses, but bad foundations. But in this sermon, He's trying to give them grace. He's trying to warn them and compel them to look at their foundation and see that it's faulty and they need Christ. And you know I think as we see in this story, that there's a real storm coming. Judgment is coming. There is a storm that will finally blow, and either you will be in Christ or you will be out of Christ, and that will make all the difference. But do you know what I think happens before that storm? In the Lord's goodness, in the Lord's providence, the Lord gives us a lot of storms of grace. Do you know what storms of grace are? They are your life not working out right now. You are going through a trial, you are going through something that is devastating to you, and it absolutely destroys your house that you built and you thought was great, and all of a sudden, a trial, a storm in your life knocks you off of your foundation and you realize my life is now in shambles. What is that? That's not a final storm, that's a right now storm, that's a storm of potential grace. Why? Because Jesus wants you to see that whatever you build on will not last. And maybe perhaps this sermon, perhaps this sermon series is your storm of grace — that God through His Spirit is right now convicting you to say your house is built on something that is not Him, it is not Christ, and what you need is to come to Him. You need to tear your house down and you need to come and stand on Him and build your life on Him, because only a life on Him will last. See, perhaps right now is your storm of grace. The last few weeks

have been terrible, the last few months have been terrible, and you haven't figured out why. It's because your house is on the wrong foundation and every time the winds blow, it knocks a wall down. You are trying to just repair the walls. You are trying to fix the windows. You are trying to fix the leaky roof. Your life just keeps falling apart and you can't figure out why. Jesus would say stop fixing the house. Tear it down and walk over to me, and stand on me, the rock, the foundation, and build your life on me. Because only on Christ will the storms of this life come and go, and you will stand through these storms and through the final storm. And you will live because only a life built on Christ will stand.