

June 28, 2020

BUILD ON THE ROCK

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Matthew 7:21-28 (MSG)

"Knowing the correct password—saying 'Master, Master,' for instance— isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

"But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this.

1. Read this passage slowly. Read it several times and notice what gets your attention. Whether in this reading or in the teaching today or in earlier weeks, did you feel the Spirit prompting you to make a change in your thinking and actions? What do you believe the Spirit is asking you to believe and do?
2. Do you have memories of when a "storm" hit your life and everything you had built crashed? Why do you think that was?
3. What word of God do you need to obey today? What do you need to do in order to make sure that the leading of the Spirit results in concrete action?
4. What did you learn from the Sermon on the Mount in the last few months?

A prayer:

Father, we thank you that you are so close to us and that all we need to do is reach out to you and say yes! Thank you for what we have learned in the Sermon on the Mount. Thank you for teaching us how to live! Now please help us to take what has inspired us and translate it into obedience. We are trusting you for the good fruit it will bear! In Jesus's name we pray, amen.

