

## **"Faulty Foundations"**

**8/18/19**

**Matt 7:24-27 LB "All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won't collapse, for it is built on rock. 26 "But those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. 27 For when the rains and floods come, and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash."**

**In the last couple of weeks, two well-known Christian leaders have publicly renounced their faith.**

**One was a well known pastor/author, and the other was a popular Christian songwriter.**

**One of them has completely renounced Christianity, while the other claims to be hanging on by a thread.**

**Let's first keep in mind that the Bible predicts this kind of apostasy will increase in the Last Days: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons" (1 Tim. 4:1).**

**In light of this, people are wondering how this happens?**

**How do gifted men that have stood in a pulpit to preach the Word, or that have penned songs touching millions of people—how do they just wake up one day and say, “I don’t believe anymore?”**

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**Let me tell you what I think is likely the underlying cause for these defections.**

**At the close of His unparalleled Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talked about the importance of having a *solid spiritual foundation*.**

**He tells the story of two men building a house.**

**One builds his house on sand, while the other builds on rock.**

**Storms soon begin to beat on both houses.**

**One withstands the storm while the other collapses...**

**And just like we’re seeing with these very public examples of apostasy, they fall with “a mighty crash.”**

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**In His parable, Jesus says that the FOUNDATION made the difference in the house that survived the storm.**

**Not the roof. Not the walls. Not the landscaping. The foundation!**

**And Jesus makes clear that the rock-like foundation was all about being grounded in the Word—*"He that hears my teachings and does them..."***

**So, Jesus lays out a truth—*Faith that fizzles at the finish had a faulty foundation at the first!***

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**So....what is a solid foundation that survives the storms of doubt, trials, setbacks, disappointments, and intellectual attacks comprised of?**

**First, a firm foundation is built...**

## **I. On Jesus Christ**

**Listen to the Apostle Paul on this:**

**"God, in his kindness, has taught me how to be an expert builder. I have laid the foundation and Apollos has built on it. But he who builds on the foundation must be very careful.**

**11 And no one can ever lay any other real foundation than that one we already have—Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:10-11 LB).**

**Paul says to the Corinthian church, *I’ve laid a spiritual foundation in your soul—and that foundation was Jesus Christ!***

**Any other foundation will sooner or later fail you.**

**The firm foundation that will never collapse begins with a good understanding of the Person and work of Jesus Christ!**

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**Listen—you can be in church for years and never have the proper foundation built into your soul.**

**You can sing in the choir, witness on the streets, teach from the Bible...**

**You can pastor, lead youth, sing like a canary for Jesus—and still not have a good foundation built into your soul.**

**It really boils down to WHAT you are taught, *or not*.**

**First and foremost, Paul laid the foundation of SOLID TEACHING on the Person and work of Jesus Christ.**

**He says in the Book of Acts that he taught the church “the whole counsel of God” as it related to Jesus (Acts 20:27 NKJV).**

**His testimony was: “I explained to you the plan of salvation—man’s sin and the need to repent, the certainty of coming judgment, the reality of spiritual warfare...”**

**“I explained the Sovereignty of God, the purpose of God’s Word, the purpose of the church, the divine nature of Jesus Christ.”**

**“I told you that you were crucified with Christ, that sin must no longer rule you, that Jesus has set you free indeed!”**

**“I laid out the whole truth without apology so that you would lack nothing in your spiritual walk!”**

**He laid a “Jesus foundation.”**

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**The Bible contends that no one like Jesus has ever stepped onto the stage of history, or ever will.**

**It fully explains how Jesus, though born as a man, was very God:**

**“Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and, in fact, Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can’t; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory. 17 He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together” (Col 1:15-17 LB).**

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**The writer of Hebrews declared that, “God’s Son shines out with God’s glory, and all that God’s Son is and does marks him as God. He regulates the universe by the mighty power of his command. He is the one who died to cleanse us and clear our record of all sin, and then sat down in highest honor beside the great God of heaven” (Heb. 1:3 LB).**

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**Jesus’ birth made the angels sing and the devil tremble.**

**His personality was grace filled, love driven, irresistible and without fault.**

**His ministry lifted the discouraged, delivered the oppressed, healed the suffering, and brought heaven’s light into this world’s darkness.**

**His death and resurrection are the twin hinges upon which all hope swings.**

**And the Bible declares, "There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there is no other name for men to call upon to save them" (Acts 4:12 LB).**

**No one, and I mean NO ONE, is like Jesus nor ever will be!**

**This is the FIRST STONE in a firm foundation.**

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**Then second, a firm foundation is comprised of:**

## **II. A trustworthy Bible**

**The Bible you hold in your hand is without error.**

**It is true through and through.**

**It's true regarding the creation of all things, the fall of man, the virgin birth of Christ, His death on the Cross for us, and His literal resurrection from the dead.**

**And Jesus thought so too!**

**In Luke 4:16-21, the Lord Jesus read from the Book of Isaiah (part of the Bible)——Would Jesus have read from a Book riddled with mistakes?**

**He said in His Sermon on the Mount: “For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is fulfilled” (Matt. 5:18 NIV).**

**Would Jesus have said that about an error-filled book?**

**Jesus also prayed to Father God, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17 NIV).**

**If the Bible is filled with errors, this statement would make Jesus a liar!**

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**Psalm 138:2 says God “has magnified his word above all [his] name.”——Would God exalt a Book with mistakes?**

**Would He ever say that an error-filled book was “greater” than His very name?”**

**The Bible is without error in its claims, and can be trusted!**

**That is the SECOND thing a firm foundation consists of.**



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**And third, a firm foundation consists of:**

### **III. Truth trumps everything**

**What I mean is, we live in a church culture that increasingly places greater value on experience than on Bible truth.**

**We say, “If I experience a positive ‘feel good’ emotion, then what caused the emotion must be good, right, and from God.**

**But God designed our emotions to be gauges, not guides; informers, not bosses.**

**The fact is that sometimes our emotions can lead us astray.**

**The Bible warns, “He who trusts in his own heart (feelings) is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be kept safe” (Pr.28:26 NLV).**

**Oswald Chambers wrote that “no individual experience is of the remotest value unless it is up to the standard of the Word of God.”**

**Part of the reason some are defecting from the faith is because they were raised on emotional experiences more than sound teaching..**

**So when the emotions fade and trials come, they have no foundation to sustain them.**

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**A firm foundation is built on Jesus Christ, a trustworthy Bible, and solid teaching.**