

Parables: Small Stories – Big Truths

1 - “Foundations for Life”

Luke 6:46-49

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Parables were by design unsettling and often stirred up a crowd. They were designed to illustrate a spiritual truth by placing it alongside something concrete in this world that we're all very familiar with.

Turn to **Luke 6:46-49** and let's unpack it to see how Jesus thought we needed to be rattled and reoriented in our thinking.

I. You're All Building Your Lives on Something

Every single person has a mission statement of some kind that they're working off, either consciously or unconsciously because human beings are never satisfied to just live, work, eat and breed.

II. You're All Going to Face Troubles of Some Kind at Some Time in Your Life

Notice the wind, rain and storm slammed into both houses. This is not a parable trying to teach you what you have to do to avoid storms!

James 1:2 “Count it all joy when you fall into various trials...”

1 Peter 4:12 “Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you...”

The parable is not a formula for avoiding trials; it's our Savior teaching us what you need to do to keep from collapsing in the middle of them.

III. Exposure to God's Word Alone Still Leaves You Vulnerable – Just More Accountable

What helps you dig down deep and gives you stability in the storm is how hard you work, prayed, obeyed God's Word and applied it to your life. Obedience and applying God's Word to your life was never meant to be optional- it's essential.

James 1:22-25 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

IV. Putting God's Word into Practice or Obedience is How You Dig a Deep Foundation that Keeps You Standing When So Many Others Collapse Around You

A. Common Dangers to Avoid

1. Don't Let Your Concern Over Legalism Become an Excuse for Disobedience

Pushing yourself to consistently obey God is not legalism. It's the fruits of love and it's the evidence that you love Him.

John 14:21 "Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me."

1 John 5:3 "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome."

2. Be Careful How You Describe Your Struggle with Sin

The words you choose to use in your fight against sin will either help you or hinder you to fight well. Words often signal next steps and what you think you need to do next.

Take responsibility for your sin and holiness. You aren't defeated by your sin; you're disobedient. Choose to be obedient.

3. Never Lose the Urgency of Holiness by Settling into Cruise-Control Obedience

Don't set yourself on cruise control with your obedience to God. Instead, have a racecar driver approach that's in it to win it. Stay focused, with your eyes on the track, using all your heart, soul, and mind.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 "So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

4. Stop Being Surprised and Put Off by the Messy, Hard Work of Obedience

Some of the Spirit's work on our lives is demolition work before the construction can even begin. That can be quite painful, disorienting and messy.

B. Lifelong Habits to Develop

1. Read the Bible – All of It – for a Lifetime

It's the cumulative effect of reading your Bible day after day that starts to shape your thinking and change your desires so that you even begin to want to put any of it into practice.

2. Take the Extra time to Personalize it and Pray it Back to God

Stop reading a few minutes early to slowly and prayerfully look back over and ponder what you've read. Find a verse to pray back to God, thanking Him for who He is and asking Him to help you, change you, and to work that scripture out in you.

3. Get Serious about Making Time in Your Life to Get with Other Believers at Close Range

None of us are experts in personal holiness. We need other people in our lives because God never designed you to make it on your own! Work time into your schedule to spend time with other believers at close range.

4. Memorize Some Verses or Passages

One of the best ways to get insights and to apply a verse or passage to your life is by memorizing it. It slows you down because your eyes can move across words very quickly when you're just reading.

5. Swallow Your Pride and Make It Easy for Others to Speak into Your Life