

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

"Building Castles of Sand or Stone?"



Today's Big Question: What is your foundation made of?

Luke 6:43-49 (NKJV): A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

⁴³ "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

⁴⁴ For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Build on the Rock

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

Let's jump into the message:

What is your foundation made of?

1. Are you producing GOOD _____ or ROTTEN _____ (v. 43-44)?

- A good heart (tree) produces good fruit instead of bad fruit.
- A bad heart (tree) produces bad fruit instead of good fruit.
- People know you by how you live your life (the fruit you produce).

Scripture Insight: Don't we all produce bad fruit sometimes? ([6:43-45](#))

"Yes, all Christians struggle with their sinful nature ([Ro 7:15-23](#)). But Jesus was speaking in general terms, not in specifics. He looked at life as a whole and said that a person's basic character reveals itself in what the person produces. *Evil* people who ignore God will reveal their evil nature; *good* people who follow God will reveal their goodness as they produce the good fruit of the Spirit ([Ro 8:5](#); [Gal 5:22-23](#)). Jesus used the analogy of a fruit tree to illustrate his point. But analogies are limited and usually do not parallel every detail."¹

Let's do a fruit inspection:

- Are you making progress in your relationship with God and others or are you going backwards?
- Is your first reaction loving or hurting towards others?
- Do you add to people's lives or do you take away?
- Are people better because they know you or are they bitter?
- Are you a hero-maker or a hero-slayer?

2. Are your words more like T _____ or T _____ (v. 45)?

- When people are around you, what is their experience like? Do they feel like being around you is like going on a treasure hunt or more like a trash pickup?
- Christians should be like treasure in the lives of those around them.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV); But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

¹ Quote from NIV Quest Study Bible.

3. Is your life built upon sinking S_____ or solid R_____ (v. 46-49)?

- Why do we say that we are devoted disciples yet don't do what devoted disciples do?
- So what foundation is your life built upon?

Option 1: Rock-A life founded upon Jesus and His Word

→Hears God's Word and puts it into action.

Option 2: Sand-A life founded upon good works, good intentions, and self-righteousness

→Hears God's Word and doesn't put it into action

Scripture Insight: "The key difference in the two houses is not their external appearance. Pharisees and scribes may seem to be as righteous as the heirs of the kingdom. The key in the story is the foundations. The **house on the rock** pictures a life founded on a proper relationship to Christ ([16:18](#); [1 Cor. 10:4](#); [1 Pet. 2:4-8](#)). It will stand the test of Christ's judgment, but the **house on the sand** will fail the test (see [1 Cor. 3:12-15](#))."²

- Notice that both houses faced adversity. No Christian is exempt from suffering and hardships.

Take Home Truth: Build your life upon that which lasts forever instead of that which sinks in a second.

Action Steps:

- For the devoted disciple: Bring out the hidden treasures of Christ to a world who needs to trade their trash for treasure! Share Christ with someone!
- For the struggling saint: Don't try to build upon both stone and sand. Get rid of that which is pulling you down. Get connected to a life group community that can help build you up on a solid foundation.
- For the seeker: Today is the day that you decide to allow Jesus to be your foundation. So that when the storms of life come, you will stand strong even in the midst of the storm.

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: "When Jesus Marveled" from Luke 7:1-10.

² Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.