

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of March 2021

### Laying Foundations

(Matthew 7:24-29)

Sunday, March 7, 2021

The word foundation applies to both tangible and intangible things. Serious parents are interested in seeing their children get a “good foundation” in school. They know that their children’s education and the application of that education will make the difference between success and failure in developing working skills.

On the other hand, Christian parents are eager that their children receive a good spiritual foundation. Much of this is done at home on a day-to-day basis as children observe the attitudes and reactions of their parents toward life situations: (their response to crisis, their handling of situations that could compromise their Christian convictions, and their dealing with temptation.)

Our parable this month speaks of two kinds of foundations:

#### **I. The Setting of the Parable (vs. 24-25)**

As Jesus established the setting for His story, He spoke of certain circumstances that were very familiar to the people who were listening to Him. (vs. 25) Those of us who have traveled in the Middle-East particularly in the southern part of Israel and Jordan, know about the dry stream beds that criss cross the Judean wilderness. They knifed their way between limestone hills, creating stark, awesome valleys. But then comes the spring rains and the flash floods and within minutes, those dry, desolate valleys with floods and raging torrents of water, turn into mighty rushing rivers. Surely it would be dangerous to build a house on such a piece of land.

Sunday, March 14, 2021

#### **II. The Characters.**

- A. The wise man dug through the sand until he came to the rock shelf. In many areas of Palestine, the sandy soil is quite shallow. A person does not have to dig very far before he comes to a shelf of rock. So, the wise

builder, in Jesus' story, moved away from the dry bed of the stream and moved to another more leveled and stable area. There he carefully laid the foundation for his house.

- B. The foolish man was impatient and wanted to see immediate results. Here was a man who lived for the day. He operated on impulse. He knew nothing of perseverance. Let's use our imagination to describe the scenario of these two builders.

One day the foolish builder built a house. He may have noticed his neighbor who was also building, and said to himself, "look at that silly man! There he is in this hot sun digging down in the sand. Down and down, he digs, before he ever begins to build his house. And see, look how far he has to carry his materials! Look at his wide, flat area. The ground is level and smooth, the sands are pricked and hard. The chances are that the water will come here are remote."

He wasn't concerned about tomorrow; he only thought about today. He wanted what he wanted now, so he rushed into a project for which he was not prepared.

- C. Today's world is filled with people who live only for the present. The most important things in life for them is to have what they want when they want it. "Patience," "waiting," and "listening" are foreign ideas to them. Instead, they push their way through life, doing things their own way, satisfying their selfish egos, never stopping to count the cost.

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

### **III. The Summary of the Parable (vs. 28-29)**

- A. The stability and strength of a person's life cannot be truly determined until the floods and storms come. Some Christians only have a shallow, fair-weather relationship with God. They have acknowledged Jesus Christ as Savior, they have repented of their sins, but immediately after, they push their relationship with God to the back of their lives.
- B. There are two levels on which one relates to his/her Christianity: One is a surface level, where a person "speaks the language" and "goes

through the rituals” of religion: and the other is a deeper level where commitment and dedication are needed. This is what spell the difference between these two men Jesus used as the main characters of this parable. So, when the real testing of life comes – and they will come with fury and force – those whose relationship with God is at surface level will experience catastrophic results. But those who have struggled to see God as their rock will weather the storm victoriously. They will emerge even stronger and more confident of the power and sustaining Grace of God.

### **Sunday, March 28, 2021**

- C. The word obedience summarizes the difference between hearing and doing. Jesus demands our obedience. Learning to obey is the most important lesson in life. Christ’s claim is that obedience to him is the only sure foundation for life. Furthermore, it is His unfailing promise that the life that is founded on obedience to Him and to His Word is safe regardless of how vicious the storm, how difficult the winds, or how high the flood waters.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR YOUR LIFE?