

Remnant Life Church
November 20, 2016
Putting Belief into Practice:
How Deep is Your Foundation?
Luke 6:46-49

- This morning we examine the last of the 4 pillars that comprise Jesus' Sermon on the Plain as recorded by Luke in the 6th chapter
- The first pillar was love your enemies
- The second was do not judge other people (a log in your eye and sawdust in your neighbor's)
- The third was the fruit of your life (or actions) and the words of your mouth come from your heart
 - (in other words) - You are what you do and what you say
- This final one has to do with the foundation on which we build our house
 - Meaning 2 things for us this morning – our lives and our church

READ – Luke 6:46-49

- The leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is perhaps the best-known example of a weak foundation
 - The name “Pisa” means marshy land – perhaps the first warning?
 - The structure began to tilt after the completion of the 2nd story with ongoing construction taking place in 3 stages over 200 years beginning in 1173
 - Today the 186-foot tower is 12’ 10” out of plumb but has been stabilized
 - It can never be brought upright because later construction built the upper parts on a curve to compensate for the tilt
 - Why did it tilt?
 - The place where they chose to build it and the foundation of the tower is only 10’ deep!
 - Today we understand more about the importance of the foundation
 - It depends on the type of soil and the style of building
 - As well as...this is for all you Architectural nerds...gravity loads, lateral loads, pile foundation, and raft footing
 - Many of today's buildings have foundations that go down to depths of 150 – 175 feet.
 - But one truth holds firm – the deeper the foundation the more secure the structure.
 - Does that not also hold true for our lives today?
1. Jesus begins this final portion of teaching with a rebuke and we can apply it to the first 3 parts of His teaching
 - a. *Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (6:46)*
 - b. He is talking, not to the unbelievers, but to those who claim to follow Him
 - i. How poignant and appropriate is that question still today?

- ii. So many call themselves Christians but do not obey the Word of God
- 2. Christians today cover a wide spectrum of practice in their beliefs:
 - a. Barna Group research – recent study...
 - b. Of the 73% of people in this country who claim to be Christians
 - i. Only 34% say they read their Bibles
 - ii. Over 25% do not pray
 - iii. 41% believe that the Bible, the Koran, and the Book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same truth
 - iv. Nearly 60% believe that satan is not real but only a representation of evil
 - v. Likewise, 58% believe that the Holy Spirit does not exist but is only a representation of God's presence in our lives
 - vi. 22% believed that Jesus sinned while living on earth and was not perfect
 - c. Jesus' question to the disciples is even more valid today, why do you call me Lord and not obey my Word?
 - i. Today it is not only about unbelief but the embracing of lies and false teaching
 - d. It continues to come back to the condition of our hearts
 - e. The teachings of Jesus are timeless and life-changing but only if we apply them and live them out
- 3. Jesus uses a parable to explain to the people the importance of a firm foundation meaning putting into practice the Words of Jesus
 - a. *(6:47) They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.*
 - b. 4 key words in the first sentence of this verse -
 - i. The word for "house" in the original language is Oikia (oy kee ah)
 - 1. That word translates into a dwelling place so Jesus is bringing to their minds their very homes
 - 2. Not an abstract concept but something very real and personal
 - ii. The word "deep" is bathyno (bathoo no)
 - 1. the deep sea or the hidden things of God
 - 2. digging to the foundation of Jesus is revelatory
 - iii. The word "laid" is tethemi (tith eh mee)
 - 1. Put in place and carry no more
 - 2. Our security is not because of what we have done but because of Who we have placed our lives in
 - 3. When we give our lives to Him we carry it no more
 - iv. The word "rock" is petra
 - 1. Large, solid rock
 - 2. A man of firm conviction – Peter (**Matt 16:18**)
 - 3. Paul writes in **1 Cor.10:4** "*and the rock was Christ.*"
 - c. In this sentence, we are given the blueprint for the establishment of a firm, secure structure that can weather the storms
 - i. This "structure" represents several things

1. It can mean our lives
 2. It can also mean the church
 - ii. Digging deep means just that – going beyond the surface
 - iii. Surface Christianity means that I love God and give my life to Him
WHEN EVERYTHING IS SUNNY AND CALM (i.e. – loving only your friends 6:32-33)
 - d. What happens when (not if) the storms come
 - i. Consider it all joy, my brethren, **when** you encounter various trials, (Jas 1:2 - NASB)
 - ii. Does my relationship with God anchor me and, if not, why?
 - e. The region of Palestine where this takes place had little vegetation meaning it was either rock or marshy sand
 - i. When it would rain the water would rush down the rocks in torrents
 - ii. Everything not anchored down would be swept away
 - iii. Structures built on the rock had a firm foundation
 - iv. Jesus is that firm anchor
 1. To realize the worth of the anchor you have to feel the storm – Anon.
 - f. How can you tell if your foundation is not secure?
 - i. Quick to embrace fear
 - ii. Your words and your countenance are negative
 - iii. Lack faith and hope
 - iv. Lack joy
 - v. Your focus is only on your problem
 - vi. You forget all the blessings of your life
 - g. Note that Jesus does not say the house was damaged – it collapsed and was destroyed
 - i. Too many Christians are satisfied with an “okay” relationship with Christ
 - ii. We make excuses; justify our actions when they are not according to the Word; and think, “I’m not that bad”
 - iii. Destruction is complete when the trials of life come
 - iv. In the letters to the 7 churches of Asia Minor in Revelation Jesus says to the church of Laodicea, *So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (Rev 3:16)*
 - v. To be separated from Jesus is total destruction to our minds, our hearts, and our souls
4. The storms will come and many times, if you are anchored, they are even for our good
- a. **James 1:2-7** - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to*

receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

- b. **Rom 5:1-5** - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

- What are you anchored to?
- If you obey the Words of Jesus and live your life to glorify Him you mature in your walk and your life will be more firm and secure in Him – a life-long journey
- The storms can only destroy your life when you are holding on to something other than Jesus
 - Your mind
 - Your money
 - Your education
 - Your job or position
 - Your family
 - NOTHING and NOONE can save and secure you but Jesus Christ