

Scripture - Matthew 7:24-29 Parable of Two Foundations
Part 8 - Authority: What Does the Bible Have to Do With Me?
(World Absorbing, Living Word)

High School

This fall for our Bible study we're asking - what is the Bible? So we're asking all these fun, hard questions about the Bible that the Bible asks and answers about itself. The question today is: So What: So what does the Bible have to do with me? In a word this is a question about: authority.

Let's read a mini parable of Jesus in Matthew 7:24-29.

The house in the parable is a symbol for something. What do you think the house represents in the parable?

Your life.

Ok, but is the house the main point of the parable? Is the main point of the parable what your life looks like?

No. No house is just like another. Back in the day, in the ancient near East in Jerusalem, homes looked different from each other. Different sizes, locations, material, decor. Your life won't look just like every other Christian's life. Tons of Christians have lived in different times in different parts of the world with different jobs and different ministries and different families and so on. So Jesus' point is not exactly what your life looks like. Although he does care about that and talk about it in tons of other places in the Bible that's not the main point here.

What is the main point of the parable?

The foundation of the house. The main point of the parable is what your life is built on.

What's the foundation of the wise man's house vs. the foolish man's house?

Rock v sand.

Did you know that Israel was basically all desert and sand? So to build your house on rock, you go to do what?

Dig deep in the sand till you hit rock.

So a wise man digging deep and wisely building his house on rock means what for the Christian - what is that a picture of? What is the firm foundation of the life of a Christian?

To build your house/life wisely on the rock means to hear Jesus' Word and obey it!

Why are we always talking about the Bible every Sunday in church?

This is what every Christian is supposed to do = build our lives on the same foundation which is the Bible. We're called to be hearers and doers of God's Word.

How deep do you have to dig in the desert to build your house on sand?

No digging at all.

In the parable what do you imagine the HOUSE of the foolish man looks like?

It's easy to imagine the foolish man's house in the parable looks like a shack or a rundown cabin. Maybe it is some mud hut. But, the house of the foolish man could be a mansion, a castle, a chateau in the mountains, a luxury villa on the beach, or some ordinary house in some ordinary neighborhood.

So who is the foolish man in the parable?

The non-Christian. The UNbeliever. Whatever the non-Christian's life looks like (whether it looks like a shack or a mansion) this means the unbelieving non-Christian has a surface life with no real foundation.

If you follow Jesus' Word, if you follow the Bible does that mean you won't have any troubles in this life, that you'll only flourish?

Nope. Both the wise Christian who listens and obeys the Bible and the foolish unbeliever who ignores and rebels against

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God's Word - both face storms and suffering and horrible stuff in their lives.

But what's the difference if you build your life on God's Word vs if you refuse to build your life on God's Word?

The Christian will not fall BUT the unbeliever's life will fall and be ruined - in the ultimate sense. This is talking about eternal life vs eternal death and condemnation and ruin. The foolish person's life may look terrible or it may look amazing BUT if they do not follow God's Word their life in the end will fall.

What does it mean to build your house/life on the rock = what does it mean to hear Jesus' words and do them? Remember, get practical:

What must you do to be saved?

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - Acts 16:31

What is God's will for your life?

Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself - Mark 12:30-31

What is God's will for the church? And what is his promise to the church?

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age - Matthew 28:19-20

[Authority and the World] Problem: *The Bible is a bunch of old stories about dead people that has nothing to do with any of us today.*

Problem: *You should be free from the idea of a God. You should be free from authority. You should be free to live however you want. No one has the right to tell anyone else how to live their life. You should decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil.*

Answer: It is God's Word that tells us who God is. That he is God and we are not. He tells us how he made us to live. He tells us we do not live the way he made us to live. He tells us we will die for our sin. He tells us there is only one way to live forever ... through faith in Jesus, by believing he died for our sins. If you will not build your life on that gospel you will die forever. To not listen to God's Word is like a fish deciding he wants to be free of his fish bowl and water and walk around on dry land and breathe air. But that's not freedom for the fish, that's certain death.

The Bible is our **authority** because it rightly interprets life and reality. The Bible is not only life absorbing, it is world absorbing. As we interpret Scripture we see that Scripture is actually interpreting us. Scripture is not under our microscope, we are under the microscope of Scripture. We don't stand over the text of the Bible and expose it. Rather, the text of the Bible stands over us and exposes us as we read it! We don't form the text to say whatever we want it to say, rather as we read it the text is forming us more and more into the image of Christ.

Isaiah 55:11 God says, "My word that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

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Hebrews 4:12, "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Romans 1:16 Paul says, "I'm not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation."

The Bible absorbs our world and gives it meaning. It's the Bible that makes sense of our life and not the other way around.

[Authority and the Church] Who are legitimate authorities in the world?

-Parents.

-State officials like Presidents, Senators, judges, and police to cultural leaders like teachers, financial and tech gurus, and artists and musicians.

-Church officers.

Just because we're saying the Bible is the supreme authority for all of life does not mean there aren't secondary, supplementary God-ordained authorities.

But who's in charge of the Bible in the church?

Church historians say that the authority of the Bible is the real cause of the Reformation when the Protestants broke off from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Protestants said that the Bible is the only infallible authority in the church = that is the only authority in the church that's incapable of making an error.

So whenever a minister or some church tradition was in conflict with the Bible - who is the final authority?

The Protestants said the Bible corrected ministers and church tradition whenever they were in conflict with each other.

But, the Roman Catholic Church argued that their ministers and bishops and church traditions were equal in authority with the Bible. So the Roman Catholic Church would not allow herself to be corrected by the Bible on issues like justification and worship even though their teachings and traditions were in conflict with what the Bible said about justification and worship.

But, God is the highest authority. Because he's God. And the only place we have his words are in Scripture. So the Bible is the final and ultimate authority.

Who's in charge of the Bible, Jesus or me?

Ministers and elders only have the right to command the church to believe something or do something only insofar as what they teach is what the Bible teaches!!! Because the Bible is Jesus' word and Jesus is in charge.