





On the Rock

Matthew 7:24-28
Luke 6:46-49

Parables of Jesus

Start the discussion by discussing what a "lord" is. Historically, a lord is a person who is in charge, a ruler, or a master. This could be a landlord, someone who owns property, or someone you rent from.

Discuss: If someone is your Lord, what type of relationship would you have with them?
Would you do what they said? If they gave you directions, would you follow them?

Jesus is speaking to the people, and he begins by asking them, "Why do you call me Lord and not do the things that I say?"

If we claim to be followers of Jesus, should listen and follow his commands? If we hear what he says, shouldn't we DO what he says? If we claim that he is our Lord, should we give him absolute authority in our lives? If we really see him as our LORD, then would Jesus be in charge of our lives? Would he be our master? Would he be our ruler? If we give him this position in our lives, can we trust him with everything?

The answer to all of these questions should be yes. But Jesus begins telling a parable. Both of the people in the parable listen to Jesus. They both hear him, but they respond differently.

You may have heard this story before. Jesus says that someone who hears his sayings and does them is like what kind of person? Do you know what type of person it would be who listens to Jesus and obeys him?

Jesus tells us that the person who hears what he says and does them is like a wise man. So, if this is true, then what type of person would someone be if they heard his teachings and did NOT do them? He says that someone who hears his teachings and does not do them is like a foolish man.

Someone who is foolish is actually someone who has the ability to think, but does not make good judgments. A fool differs from someone who is stupid; that person may be lacking intelligence or not have the ability to think clearly. A fool has the capacity to think clearly, but makes decisions without thinking or considering the result.

Jesus begins to get specific. **He says that a man who hears his sayings and does them is like a man who builds his house on a rock.**

Discuss: Why would you want to build your house on a rock?
Hear and discuss possible answers.
Jesus said that this man "dug deep." Why would you want to dig deep when building a house?
Possible answers may include a better foundation, more stable, it would stand up better.

Use an illustration about trying to pull a pole or fence post out of the ground. You could even illustrate this with a stick in a hole in the ground. If the post only goes down a short distance into the ground, is it easy to remove? But what if the post is much deeper in the ground? Is it more stable? And what if the post was much deeper, and secured in the ground in concrete? Would that be easy to remove? If you put the post in the ground with concrete, is that a firm foundation?





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If you build your house, and you have dug deep, and put your foundation down deep to the rock, when the storm comes, will it blow your house over? Would this be a firm foundation?

Jesus is saying that the person who hears his sayings and does them is like a wise person who builds a deep strong foundation for his house. Obeying what Jesus tells us creates deep roots in our lives. We can take this back to the parable of the sower, and know that our heart is the soil, or dirt. When we listen to what Jesus says and do it, the roots grow deep into our lives and they are not easily uprooted. They are strong, and become a foundation for which we can build the rest of our lives.

Now we have the contrast. The next person is the man who hears the teachings of Jesus, but does not do them.

This is like a man who built his house on the sand; or "without a foundation." (Luke 6:49)

Discuss: What if you tried to build a house or a structure but you did not put anything flat on the ground first? What if you just started building walls on top of the ground, what is going to happen? It's going to lean. It's going to fall over. When the wind blows, it will fall over and crash quicker. What if you built your house on the sand? Have you been to the beach? Have you seen sand? Have you ever made a sand castle? What happens when the water washes over the beach? What happens to the sand? What happens if you try to build a house on the sand? Is sand stable? Does it move? Sand is not stable. It blows with the wind, and moves with the water.

The person who built their house on the sand was foolish. It wasn't that they did not understand - surely they were familiar with the properties of sand. They must have known that sand is not stable, this can be seen just by walking on it. It wasn't that they did not know, it was that they did not consider it. They did not think about this when they were making decisions. They flippantly decided to build their house on the sand. They did not think about it or plan properly; they did not factor in the long term effects.

Did the person who built on the sand do what was easier? Did it seem like it didn't take as long, there wasn't as much preparation, and it was faster? It usually doesn't work out to take the easy way out. If we don't take time to do it right the first time, we often end up having to do it all over again, and often suffer loss in the process.

The storm came: the floods came, the wind blew, and beat on the house.

The house on the rock with the firm foundation could not even be shaken. But the house on the sand fell immediately. It completely fell apart; it crashed and broke into pieces and was completely ruined. Both of these people experienced the storm, but they had different results.

Discuss: Is Jesus talking about a rain storm? What does Jesus really mean? What are storms that come into our lives? There are all types of possible answers.

God does not bring storms, but storms come because we have an enemy in this world. (John 10:10; 16:33)





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In this story, what is the house? The house is our life. When problems come, will you be shaken? Will your life be destroyed? Or will you stand firm because you have put your trust in Jesus?

Storms reveal what is in our heart.

The foolish person hears the words of Jesus, but does not place value on them. They hear, but disregard his teachings, quickly move on, and do not make a definitive decision to do something with what they have heard. They do not consider it, and even when the storm comes the foolish person does not always see that there could have been different results if they had done things differently.

Jesus in the Story



Throughout scripture, Jesus is referred to as the "rock."

In the Old Testament, Moses brought water in the wilderness from a rock.

Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:8-11

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them; and that Rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

He is the Rock, His work is perfect: For all His ways are justice...

Deuteronomy 32:4

There is none holy like the Lord, there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God.

1 Samuel 2:2

When we not only hear the sayings of Jesus, but also do them, we make him our foundation. When we do what he says, we are digging deep and putting our foundation on him, the Rock.

He is never shaken, so if we our foundation is laid on him, it makes us unshakeable. This means we make him our Lord in every sense of the word. We look to him for everything and he is our ultimate authority.

To make him our Lord is to give him all power and authority in our lives. When we try to do things our own way, we are building our homes on sand.

You have a decision to make. Only you can decide what you're going to do with the teachings of Jesus.

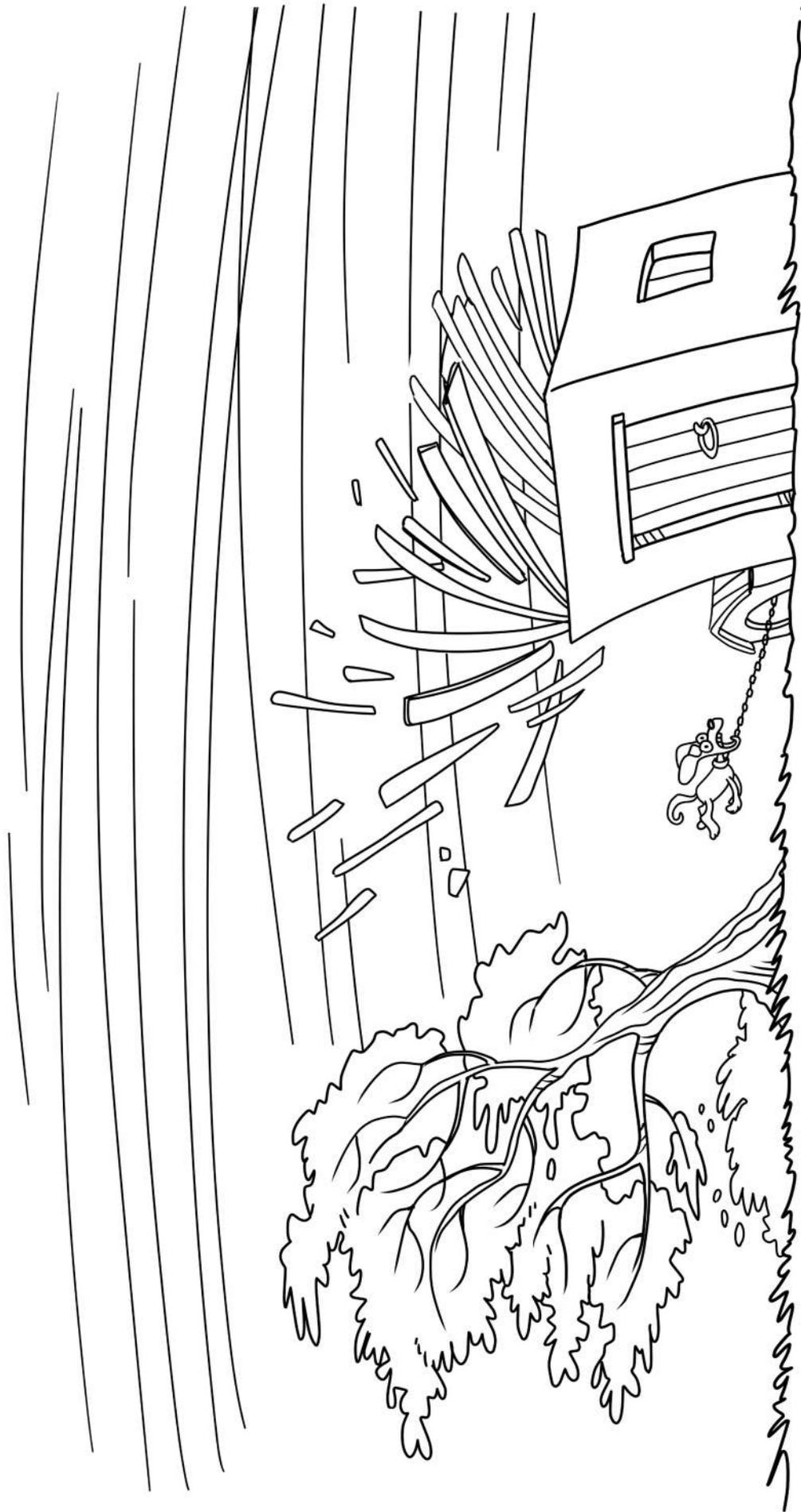
It comes down to the attitude of your heart. It's not about what anyone makes you do, or what it looks like on the outside.

In your heart, what are you doing with what the teachings of Jesus? Are you valuing them and making them the most important thing in your life? Scriptures speak about preparing your heart to seek the Lord. (2 Chronicles 12:14; 19:3; Ezra 7:10) You are the only one who can decide what your house will look like after the storm.

Will your house still be standing because it wasn't able to be moved?

Or will your house be completely destroyed?





Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

29. On the Rock

1. How many types of people are in the story?
2. What kind of person does what Jesus says?
3. Which person does not do what Jesus says?
4. What did the foolish man build his house on?
5. Whose house did not have a foundation?

Psalm 62:6-7

He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of strength and my refuge, is in God.

30. Weeds in the Wheat

1. When could the servants tell that there was something else planted in the field?
2. Why could they not tell sooner?
3. What was the only thing that was different?
4. Why did they not pull the weeds when they could first tell what they were?
5. What do the weeds represent?

Matthew 7:15-16

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

31. Two Kinds of Yeast

1. How many measures of meal did the lady in the story use?
2. Is it possible to remove the yeast from the dough?
3. What do you have to do instead?
4. In your own words, what is "leaven of the Pharisees?" (Luke 12:1)

Acts 5:38-39

"...For if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but it is of God, you cannot overthrow it - lest you even be found to fight against God."

32. The Heart of Man

Read Proverbs 4:20-23

1. To what should we give attention?
2. To what should we listen?
3. Where should we keep the Word of God?
4. What is the Word of God to our bodies?

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life.

