

LEARNING FROM THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

Matthew 11:28-30
Mark 4:1-12 & Matthew 13

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
7 PM - 8:30 PM

“THE PARABLE OF 2 BUILDERS”

Matthew 7:24-27

THESIS: Life is content, happy and secure when the teachings of Christ are not only heard, but practiced consistently.

INTRODUCTION

Remember, the parable is an extended figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another. Moreover, “a parable is a saying or story that seeks to drive home a point the speaker wishes to emphasize by illustrating it from a familiar situation of common life” (Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible).

“There are two dangers to be avoided in seeking to interpret the “parables” in Scripture, that of ignoring the important features and that of trying to make all the details mean something” (Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of O.T. & N.T. Words, W. E. Vines).

As this parable of “The 2 Builders” is studied under the Direction of The Holy Spirit, it is hoped that which was unclear, will be revealed, understood and made a part of your Spiritual Life. The lessons learned should develop your New Nature in Christ Jesus. The fulfillment of a Godly Way of Life should be pursued daily. Never stop seeking to grow into Spiritual Maturity. Know that “godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6). The parables 1) Illustrate Truth; 2) Impart Instruction; and 3) Increase Information.

Earlier in Chap. 7 Christ teaches all to “enter in at the straight gate...” v. 13; and in v. 15 “beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing...” and as He comes to the end of an abundantly excellent sermon, vs. 21-29, He speaks this parable of 2 builders.

The goal of this parable is to make known the necessity of obedience to the commands of Christ. You cannot be a “*hearer*” of His Word “*only*”. You must be a “*hearer and doer*”. You must Obey the Word of The Lord. Obey and be Blessed. Disobey and be doomed to the ditch of doubt, deceit and destruction. (Further readings: Mt. 15; James 1; 1 John 2; John 3:16;

Gal. 6:7-9). The parable admonishes getting correct understanding and using skills successfully. The aim is also to purpose diligence in duty. It too suggests, “of a good beginning comes a good end.”

“The 2 Builders”

Matthew 7:24-27

BODY

Here we have 2 builders: one “wise” and the other “foolish”. Both desire to build a house. Both wanted a place to shield them from the wind. Both required a place for shelter from the storm and rain. Both needed a place of safety from wild animals. Both were dedicated to the task at hand. Both were determined to build their house to the finished. Ultimately, both houses were subject to the common trials of their existence/being built.

On the surface these houses appear well build. The materials used were probably of acceptable quality. The design, layout and structure, no doubt followed construction procedures. However, the main difference between the 2 houses lay out of sight. The difference is in the foundation: one house is build on a solid, rock foundation and the other house is built on a weak, shifting and sinking foundation of sand. “These two builders seem to have been equally well skilled in architecture. “Yet, where the knowledge is the same, the ultimate result may vary; two men may be equally well instructed in the Scriptures, yet one of them may be wise and the other foolish. To know what faith is, what repentance is what a good hope in Christ is, may all be yours, and yet it may but increase your misery forever. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them. It is not the hearer, but the doer of the word, that is blessed” (*“The Two Builders and Their Houses,”* by C. H. Spurgeon, *Baker Book House*)

I THE WISE BUILDER

The “wise builder” was wise in that he recognized the importance of a solid, stable and sure foundation prior to building his house. The house can be liken to your: life; character; personality; mind; disposition; emotions; manner of life; values; purposes; appetites; aspirations; goals; etc. Moreover, analyzing this “wise builder” leans to learning several spiritual lessons: he dug deep, he sweated and he found a rock on which to build his house.

A. He Dug Deep

1. He was out of sight
2. He was out of touch
3. He had things unveiled to him

B. He Sweat

1. Pain
2. Patience
3. Progress

C. He Found The Rock

- 1. The Savior**
- 2. The Truth**
- 3. The Undergirding**

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II THE FOOLISH BUILDER

The “foolish builder” was foolish because he failed to understand the significance of having a consistently reliable and unchanging foundation. It appears he was in the spirit of immediate-hurry-up. Waiting and patience were enemies of time. Hard labor was not in his present design. The depth of his building did not go beyond its appearance to be seen by others. Notice the spiritual lessons which can be learned from the “foolish builder”: he wanted his house to be seen by men, his house was situated on the surface of the ground and in the end all was superficial.

A. Wanting House By Men

- 1. To Notice**
- 2. To Identify**
- 3. To Know**

B. Satisfied Being Built On The Surface

- 1. Appearance Oriented**
- 2. Exterior Upkeep**
- 3. Inspired By The Outside**

C. The House Ended Being Superficial

- 1. Unstable**
- 2. Unreliable**
- 3. Worthless**

CONCLUSION - Let’s do some thinking and make an acrostic of the words 1) wise, 2) rock and 3) foolish. Each letter will stand for and begin a word in the word wise, rock and foolish.

1. Be Wise	2. Build On The Rock	3. Be Foolish
W _____	R _____	F _____
I _____	O _____	O _____
S _____	C _____	O _____
E _____	K _____	L _____

I _____

S _____

H _____

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List some of the interesting points of this parable?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

October 19, 2011
PLDB