

15. Simple Commands to build on the right foundation

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We purchased our home about a couple years ago. It was our dream home. It is not a mansion, but it is a gift from the Lord Jesus. We've never thought we could afford it, but God made it happen. After we moved in, I've noticed that the air conditioning unit was sitting on a plastic pad four feet by four feet. Underneath of that plastic pad is just dirt. It is located right next to the drainage area from the backyard. You know what that means. As soon as we have Arizona rain which comes down like cat and dog, I would have erosion happen around the plastic pad, eventually, it would be lopsided.

I contacted the builder, but the builder told me that they did whatever the building code allowed them to do. So I ended up spending \$300 to make a concrete pad underneath of the air conditioning unit.

Some of you may wonder where I am going with this. You see, I could have the most efficient and powerful air conditioning unit on that plastic pad that is on top of dirt. A couple of thunder storm with heavy rain will create a major erosion underneath of the pad that will make the unit to be toppled over. It is not the unit makes it stable. It is the concrete foundation makes that unit stable.

A. IDENTICAL ELEMENTS

Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The invitation is open to the public. Jesus is telling us that whoever hears His teaching and does will get the benefit that no one else will get. This open-to-the-public is not available to Jehovah's Witness and Mormon doctrine. You have to be a special person to be in their elite selected people.

There are two identical elements we must notice are:

1) The two main people are both builders.

2) It is the life situation of each builder. Both face the same storm of rain and winds and floods. Again, the storm is to be taken not literally but metaphorically. Jesus isn't telling us how to stormproof our homes from Hurricane Hugo. He's telling us how to stormproof our lives.

I don't think it is necessary for me to go over what kinds of storms in our lives we have to face. We all know and face a few in our lives already and will face them later in our lives.

B. CONTRASTING FACTORS

Although both builders do the same work and face identical storms, there are some significant differences between them. The first builder "hears and does" the words of Jesus in v.24, but the second, though he hears the same words, "does not do them" in v.26.

Interestingly, if we had seen the two buildings going up at the same time, we would have thought they were identical. But the test of the storm revealed their difference. What's really important in life is not what we hear. It's what we do with what we hear.

It takes no theologian to realize that the rocklike foundation of the wise man's house was Christ Himself. That builder had turned to Him in simple faith and actively built his life on Jesus' sure and eternal principles. The foolish man, however, disregarded Christ and constructed his life on the ever-shifting, quick sands of this world's passing wisdom or their own religion.

C. THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT

It is very important for us to do what we hear. But should we do everything we hear? Just follow whoever the leader is? Unless it is from the Word of God, the Bible, nothing else is absolute truth.

Many people have challenged the accuracy of the Bible, especially the prophecies regarding Jesus' birth, His life, death and the resurrection. They often say that it was a series of coincidences.

For those people, here is a challenge of ours:

The Mathematical Odds of Jesus Fulfilling Prophecy

The following probabilities are taken from Dr. Peter Stoner, a Southern California university professor and mathematician, in 'Science Speaks' to show that coincidence of the prophecies of Jesus is ruled out by the science of probability. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to eight prophecies, "We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} ." That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that "We take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man."

Stoner considers 48 prophecies and says, "We find the chance that any one man fulfilled all 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10^{157} ."

The estimated number of electrons in the universe is around 10^{79} . It should be quite evident that Jesus did not fulfill the prophecies by accident."

There are over 7,600 promises from God recorded in the Bible. So far, everything He promised came true and will come true. He has a perfect proven track record.

D. WHAT ABOUT OTHER FOUNDATIONS

I am going to talk about two major cults, Mormonism and Jehovah's Witness. They are very sincere people, but they are sincerely wrong in their doctrines.

Romans 10:2-3 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

1) JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

The Jehovah's Witnesses was begun by Charles Taze Russell in 1872. He had great difficulty in dealing with the doctrine of eternal hell fire. So, he came to deny not only eternal damnation, but also the Trinity, the deity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Today the group has over 4 million members world wide. The Watchtower Society statistics indicate that 740 house calls are required to recruit each of the nearly 200,000 new members who join every year.

- They believe that Jesus Christ is the first of God's creation.
- The Holy Spirit is nothing more than God's active force.
- Regarding the resurrection of Christ, he was resurrected in the spirit; his physical body vanished.
- The only way to get salvation is coming to Jehovah's Witness organization.
- When it comes to their own prophecies, Christ returned spiritually in 1914 and has been ruling spiritually ever since.
- The problem is that none of their prophecies came true since their beginning of prophecies from 1914 till 1975.
- What would be their excuses for the false prophecies? JW says that the organization is still learning. If that is so, then how can they trust what they are taught now by the Watchtower? Will what they are being taught now change also?
- A true prophet of God won't err in prophesying. Only a false prophet does. The Jehovah's Witness organization, that claims to be a prophet of God, is really a false prophet.

2) MORMONISM

Mormonism started in 1830 with Joseph Smith and 30 people. Joseph Smith claimed that Jesus & the Father told them the Christianity is corrupted. But he himself was heavily involved with magic & witchcraft. None of his 100 prophecies came true. According to Mormonism, it tells that Smith was martyred. But actually he was killed by the mob who lost many of their wives to Smith. Not only that, but also Joseph Smith conned several young girls to have sex with him. In other words, he was a perverted child molester.

It is a religion of men for sexual fulfillment to achieve godhood. By the way, ladies, if you were a Mormon woman, you would be pregnant for the rest of your eternal life.

Mormon people works for salvation. They have 50,000 young missionaries around the world working for this goal. In America, average 250 Christians per day get converted to Mormonism due to their lack of knowledge in the Bible.

- Regarding the identification of Jesus, Christ is the most favored of the sons of God. He was a brother of Lucifer, later known as satan.
- For the resurrection of Christ, they believe that Christ was resurrected with a tangible body of flesh and bones. God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified, exalted, immortal, resurrected man.
- Mormon people believe that the heaven is made up of three kingdoms of glory:
 - a. Celestial: Highest level of heaven. Gained by complete obedience to the celestial law. They believe that the true Mormons will go there.
 - b. Terrestrial: Second level of heaven. This is for luke warm Mormons or honorable men who have been blinded.
 - c. Telestial: The lowest kingdom in heaven. God and Christ do not dwell there.

- For salvation, they believe that the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living.
- 4000 correctional changes have been made since the original Mormon book till current Mormon bible.
- Mormon bible claimed that their ancestors came from Israel to Central America. It eventually divided into two groups (dark skinned tribe which became bad people and fair skinned people who were good) and moved up to North America where now is USA. There was a war between two groups and the bad tribe wiped out everyone except one man who became the lineage of the Mormon people. Joseph Smith was inspired by the angel who was formerly the sole survivor to start the Mormonism and to write the book of Mormon. So their claim is that American Indian is their ancestors who came from Israel.

Many Mormon anthropologists who specialize in the study of DNA code wanted to proof that claim. So they researched the DNA of American Indians and Jewish people. The result was remarkable. There was not one resemblance. They even checked the possibility of linguistic similarity. None. Guess where they found the similarities in DNA and language? Northeastern Asians. Close to Mongo and Siberia. In other words, those people crossed 50 mile Bering Sea to Alaska instead of Mormons' claim which was Jewish people crossing 8000 miles over the seas.

E. THE RESULT OF JESUS' TEACHING

Matthew 7:28-29 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus was the Authority of the Word. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. The scribes often quoted other teachers' teachings instead of the cross-reference law from the scriptures. But Jesus used the phrase "I say unto you" with a full authority that comes from the Father.

F. APPLICATIONS

1) Hearing of the Word of God doesn't mean a thing to God and to us until we do it as it says.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

2) The most important aspect of our Christian faith is none other than whom we believe.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

3) Jesus is the Authority of all.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.