

The Sand Pile Blues – Luke 6:46-49

We've all probably heard this parable before – The wise man built his house upon the rock! The foolish man built his house upon the sand!

We also probably know what it means – If you build your life upon a solid foundation, when adversity comes, you will be able to stand. If you build your life on shifting sands, that same adversity will cause your life to crumble!

We know the story, we know the meaning, but do we apply it to our lives?

A few weeks ago, I went on a vacation to the beach with my family. I struggle to relax when I go on vacation! I don't have A.D.D., I have D.A.D.

This upcoming sermon series was on my mind all week, so real life parables were always coming to mind – some that Jesus taught & others of my own.

This parable in particular was one that I thought extensively about while I was completely surrounded with sand for most of the week!

With my D.A.D, it didn't take long before I had to do something while on the beach, so I put this parable to the test! I started making sand sculptures.

Let me just say, it is true that building upon the sand is foolish, but it's even more foolishness to build upon the sand, with sand! Not one of these survived!

But I thought that I would give it my best shot of building something on the sand that could last, & apply the best sand sculpture building codes I know!

Here were the building codes I put in place: Sand Sculptures 101

- It matters where you build! You better know how far the tide comes up, because no matter what you build, if the waves hit it, it's done!
- It matters how you build! You need a solid foundation to build upon. You have to pack down the sand as much as possible or it won't stay.
- It matters when you build! You can't build during the heat of the day, or when the tide is out. Some water is needed!
- It matters what you build! You can only build, what the foundation is strong enough to support! A bad example: a giraffe! You also have to have a plan in your mind, a picture, for the sculpture to take shape!

- It matters why you build! I build sand sculptures to put a smile on peoples faces. If what I build does not have a positive impact on people, then the waves won't matter, because people will destroy it first!
- It matters that you finish the job, that you are ready to refine what you built, and that you do whatever you can to protect it!

I'm sure you didn't come this morning to learn about building sand sculptures. But like Jesus' stories, the purpose is to teach us about heavenly truths!

Far more than sand sculptures, or houses, our lives standing firm matters!

What we build our lives upon will determine whether our lives can withstand the storms of life's adversities! Consider these pictures? Would you be able to stand if that picture was you? Why or why not?

Building our lives on the rock, is building upon Jesus Christ – His gospel, His Word/teachings, His Spirit! This is of greatest importance in our lives!

- Where are we building our lives? On the networks of CNN, Fox News, etc.? The parable of sowing & reaping serves as a good reminder here!
- How are we building our lives? Riding on the waves of changing tides? Jesus is the way, truth and life! Are we building our lives on His Word?
- When are we building our lives? If we try during high tide it may be too late, if we try during low tide we may not have what we need!
- What life are we building? It is possible to build wrongly upon the right foundation! It's not just salvation in Jesus, but a life following Jesus!
- Why are we building our lives the way we are? For God's glory or our own! Out of love for our neighbor, or out of love for ourselves?
- Who are we in Jesus' story? The wise builder or the foolish builder? Is 2020 revealing a solid foundation in our lives, or are we discovering that the foundation, and our building codes, need changing?

"In this parable, Jesus is making a staggering claim. In effect, He is saying that obedience to His teaching is the only safe foundation for life. He is saying that unless a person takes Him as master builder, he/she cannot look for anything else but ruin in their lives." – William Barclay

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