

FOUNDATIONS

LUKE 6:46-49

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

The most important part of any building is the foundation no matter how beautiful and magnificent a building is, if it is standing on a faulty foundation the destruction of that building is eminent and inevitable.

When we look at a building we don't think "oh what a beautiful foundation?"
No!

We look at the architecture, the décor, the roofing, the color combinations, the finishes like the doors, ceilings etc.

But all that nice stuff that we see would crumble like a pack of cards if the foundation of the building is not strong and properly laid.

It doesn't matter what kind of materials you use to build the house and what kind of expensive or modern materials you use to finish the house, if the foundation is faulty that building will not stand.

If your marriage is built on the wrong foundation it will not stand – if your career is built on a faulty foundation it will always struggle to make headway – if your business is built on the foundation of wickedness and corruption it will inevitably crumble.

If your ministry or the Church you Pastor has the foundation that is faulty, probably a Church split, competition and jealousy – that Church will always struggle because the foundation is faulty and needs to be repaired.

What is a foundation? The foundation is the sub-structure that forms the base on which the building is built on.

The foundation holds the building up so that it does not sink to the ground.

The foundation is the root, the beginning, the mainstay, the support, the under structure on which everything that is built on stands.

Now the higher or the bigger the building the deeper and the stronger the foundation must be.

You cannot build a thirty-storey skyscraper on a five-foot foundation – the higher the building the deeper the foundation that is required.

The foundation supports the weight and the pressure of the building – the foundation gives the building stability from earth tremors and storms.

The durability of the building is dependant on the foundation.

THE reason why many marriages are collapsing is because they were built on faulty foundations.

The foundation of hips size 42 is not strong enough to hold a marriage together.

A foundation of he has a lot of money is not strong enough to hold a marriage together.

Lady if you want a husband with money why don't you marry a bank.

Money is not a good foundation for a home.

One of the things, which you have to learn in life, is that "STORMS WILL ALWAYS COME."

Whether you pray and fast, storms will always come, whether you read the Bible 3 times a day storms will always come.

There is no marriage without a storm, no career without a storm, every business faces a storm.

The thing that holds it together is if the foundation was properly and patiently laid.

And there are people who want a quick fix prayer that will sort out all the mess but until you go back and check how the foundations were laid my prayer will only be a bandage to cover up the existing crack that needs greater attention.

David asked in **Psalm 11:3** "If the foundations be destroyed what shall the righteous do."

Let me give you some examples – let me bring it right where you are.

You started to live together with a man without asking for the blessing of your parents or the Church and you even changed your name and wore the ring.

Now the joker has started to misbehave, you are asking for prayer – the foundation is messed up, please deal with the foundation.

You started the company by pushing out all the other partners and taking their share holding by force.

Now the company is making losses and draining your capital – please go back to the foundation.

Brethren, no matter how tall and glorious the building, if the foundation is faulty and cracked the whole thing will one day crumble.

A lot of saints are going through very difficult moments and needless pain all because they have built messed up foundations.

We need to re-examine our lives and see on what kind of foundations we have built on.

Ladies and gentlemen don't be deceived; anything that is established on the foundation of unrighteousness will never have the backing of God.

God is eternally righteous and will not be part of messy and shady deals no matter who is involved in it.

If you desire to build a trans-generational ministry or business or career, begin with a strong and solid foundation as a wise builder you must put emphasis on the foundation.

Quickly let me give you ten characteristics of foundations;

(1) *Foundations go first*

No work can be done in any building before giving priority to the foundation. Foundations are about starting off on the right foot with strong grounding. Martin Luther once commented, *"I have so much to do today I shall spend the first three hours in prayer"*. Martin Luther knew that foundations matter. An athlete does not go out to tackle a marathon race without first doing the tedious day in day out work of training. A graduate does you just one day walk across the stage and receive a degree without putting in long hours of study ... No you have to do 'first things' to get to the place where you want

to be and foundations could be called 'first things'. First things get you to the place where you can start building something that others will see. You have to learn to put 'first things first'. Someone wisely said [If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.](#)

(2) Foundations are not attractive

Foundations are not glamorous. Many times, foundations are established through a little dirty word called '**work**'. You have got to work at laying down the right foundation for what you are building. Laying the foundation for a house calls for digging which involves dust and mud. This makes foundation work look unattractive, but it is more important than the décor to follow on completion of the project. Foundations must be laid down for others to benefit from them and someone has to do the dirty work.

(3) Foundations are invisible

Hebrews 11:3 says that the foundations of this world were laid by the WORD. The WORD may not be seen by the natural eye, but the effects of the WORD are always seen. Building of foundations is also done deep into the surface, where not many people are not interested to see what is going on, but later, the worth of the foundation is seen through the standing building. So don't be discouraged when laying the foundation because people are not seeing the fruit of your work, because they will all see the beauty of your labor when the building finally stands out.

(4) Foundations require hard work.

It takes sacrifice and hard work to lay foundations. Most people want to do what others can see. Others want the spotlight whether that is a promotion, speaking engagement, sports trophy etc. but not the process it takes to get to that place. The question is, are we willing to first do the unglamorous things that will help us get to the place where we want to be? The dirty little words involved in foundations are sacrifice and hard work. When you are

working at losing a few extra pounds, people see the weight you lose, but they don't see the sweat you have sweated.

(5) Foundations require a higher hand, not just a hired hand.

No part of the building requires skilled labor like the foundation. While other parts like painting might be done by people 'learning on the job', foundational work must be done by experts. Getting engineers might be costly, but good foundations require expert help. OUR LORD JESUS is our only firm foundation. **1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

(6) Foundations must be marked out (pre-determined)

Proverbs 8:29 says that GOD "assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, ... He marked out the foundations of the earth" Before you begin to build, you must ask yourself "what is it that I want to achieve? Then let your desired end result determine the type of foundation that you want to lay. For example ask yourself ... what kind of marriage do I want to have? What kind of ingredients must be foundational for me to enjoy a happy marriage? Define what you need laid down.

(7) Foundations must be made firm

Once you have determined what foundations you want to have, you must then lay them down FIRMLY. Allow no compromise. **Ezra 6:3 In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid,**

(8) Foundations must be made from quality material

In whatever you are building, ensure there is quality control of the material used at the foundation level. **1Ki 5:17 And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple. Re 21:19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first**

foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

(9) *Foundations have a dear price*

In every strong building, a good proportion of its cost is incurred during the laying of the foundation. But those that lay foundations must be willing to pay a price. In **1 Corinthians 4:10-15**, Paul was willing to pay the price so that others could succeed due to his hard work. He, as a father, was willing to lay a strong foundation so that his spiritual children would be benefited. Many people work for someone who paid a price to start their business and they are simply reaping the benefits of their hard work. For example, it took someone who was willing to pay the price through their time, energy, finances and prayers to begin the church where you fellowship.

(10) *Foundations are indispensable*

Our LORD Jesus said in **Matthew 7:26** "... a foolish man ... built his house on the sand: **27** "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Foundations guarantee the life of the building. To compromise with the foundation therefore is to compromise with the quality of the structure, including its durability.

How do we lay foundations?

Lets go to our text.

Jesus begins by rebuking the people He was preaching to, He says, "**Don't call me Lord, Lord, and yet you are not doing the things I say.**"

Then He goes ahead to teach on foundations and how to lay firm foundations.

He says Number 1

“Whoever comes to me.”

The first thing that is necessary when you are laying a foundation is to come to Jesus.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:10** **“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”**

Jesus is the bedrock on which you should build your life.

Don't build anything that is not founded on Christ.

On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.

Only on Christ can a marriage stand the storms of life.

Christ cannot be shaken, not by earthquakes, tornadoes or tsunamis.

He is a solid and firm foundation – and yes the storms will rage and the winds will blow but those who are founded on CHRIST will stand the storm and outlast the wind.

Number 2 He said “And hear my sayings.”

The second component in laying a solid foundation is HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.

It is not enough to come to Christ but you must position yourself in a place where you are constantly and consistently hearing the word of God.

Stop giving your ears to all the nonsense that is going round but let your ear be filled with the word of God.

David declared in **Psalm 119:127** “Therefore I love your commandments above gold, yea above fine gold

V128 – therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right.”

David declared in **Psalm 19:7-8** “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

And number 3 – the third component that Jesus teaches in laying a strong foundation is DOING THE WORD.

Coming to Christ is wonderful, hearing the word is fantastic but it is the DOER of the word that benefits from the WORD they have heard.

James declared that if we are hearers of the word only and not doers we are deceiving ourselves.

He writes in **James 1:23-25** “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

Ladies and gentlemen the word of God is not subject to debate because it is not a suggestion.

It is a commandment; it is a statute, a law.

And whoever lines up his life with this word will have laid the right foundation that cannot be shaken by storms.

We can argue on other things but the word of God is not subject to arguments and debates.

Jesus said, **“If you love me then keep my commandments.” John 14:15.**