

Pa232 Counseling

Lesson Pa232-16 Temptation: Unstable Foundation

As a child, did you ever build a fort that looked strong, but that fell over when you went inside? Ever climb out on the limb of a tree and have the limb break, because it couldn't hold you? Did you ever bake a cake and forget the eggs? The success of your building depends on your foundation. It is the foundation of one's life too, that determines a person's strength. Whether they hear and obey the words of Christ will determine how well they can endure the trials of life that come their way.

Jesus told another parable to the crowd that is called, "The Wise and Foolish Builders." The story describes what determines a wise or foolish builder, by how well what he builds will withstand a storm. If he wants it to stay for a while, he uses a firm foundation under the building. If he only wants a temporary structure, the foundation is not as important. Regardless of the foundation, the wind will blow, the sun will scorch, and the torrents of rain will come. The foundation will determine how long that building will stand. Listen to this story and you will notice that the rain falls on everyone.

Jesus said, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete" (Luke 6:46-49).

You have seen the crash of a person or a family and maybe even a community, when the foundations fell. It was not the wind or the rain or a great crash that caused the failure. It was the foundation they had chosen to build upon. They have heard the words of Christ, but have not put them into practice. The Scriptures encourage us to choose who we will serve and to resist the evil that is sure to come. We must humble ourselves and pray. As you have experienced stresses in your life; the rain falls on everyone, the just and unjust. The night blocks out the light for everyone. The race belongs to the one who crosses two lines, first the starting line and later the finish line.

When a person, family, or community has chosen its foundation, it begins to build upon that foundation. Repentance and turning to Christ begin the foundation on which to build your Christian life. If this is not done, you are building on sand. The trials of life are too great for a foundation of sand to hold you safely.

The promise of God goes like this, "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2Chron 7:14). In other words, God is saying, "I will be their foundation." Everyone who hears the words of Christ and builds their life following these words is building their house upon a solid foundation—the rock Christ Jesus.

Those who build on good deeds, promises, and trying to do better in their own strength, will not stand. They have heard the words of Jesus, but have not put them into practice. They have not really made him Lord of their lives.

Everyone builds their lives on some foundation. Many will blame others for their having a bad foundation or poor start in life. It is difficult when someone comes to you who is living in a “house” that has fallen or is about to fall because of its crumbling foundation. Or, someone comes who has climbed out on a limb that has broken or has baked a cake with no eggs in it. You are probably asking now, “What do I do? Do I scold, blame, and show them the error of their ways? Do I tell them how well others have done with their building, weathering the storms? Do I tell them to drop all they have and start over?” Or, you could do what many advisers have done before—listen and do nothing.

These are the same kinds of people Christ ministered to when he was here on earth. He had compassion on them. We are called, as his servants, to minister life to them as he did. What can you do when a person confides in you that they have fallen out of the tree house they have built, or the cake they have baked leaves a bad taste in their mouths? When their life is spinning out of control or a family member has betrayed their trust? They have realized that they have no real-life foundation at all. Our direction to them should be this, “If you repent and call on his name and turn from your wicked ways; he will rebuild your foundation. You will weather the storm.”

Finally, this is our assurance as counselors, that those who repent will be restored as they turn to the Lord. As counselors our prayer should be, “God, what can I do to help this person today?”

This lesson is **important** because it shows that if a person is to survive the storms of life, he or she must have a foundation built on Jesus Christ, the Rock.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that the only firm foundation for life is the word of Jesus concerning repentance and God’s offer of forgiveness. As a counselor, you can help a person to know the teachings of Christ and to have the strength of the Holy Spirit to put those teachings into practice.

To **review** this lesson, answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose for which God has called us into the ministry? [Pause]
A. If you said that God has called us into ministry to serve those in need as Christ did, you are correct.
2. How can a person rebuild his life as he sees it begin to crumble? [Pause]
A. If you said, “A person can rebuild, by humbly calling on the name of the Lord, repenting, and turning from their wicked ways,” you answered correctly.
3. What foundation can a person build upon that will weather every storm? [Pause]
A. If you said, “The foundation a person must build on is hearing and obeying God’s words and making Jesus the Lord of their life,” you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to learn the story about the two builders and their two houses. Then memorize the verse from Second Chronicles 7:14, “If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Share this story and verse with your church group.