

THE TWO BUILDERS



Passages to Study: Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:24-29.

Read with the class: Luke 6:46-49.

Texts for memorization:

Younger: Luke 6:46.

Older Matthew 7:24.



OBJECTIVES: To teach that:

1. Everybody is represented by one or other of these two builders.
2. The ideas and philosophies of people in the world are constantly changing and do not provide a firm foundation for living.
3. Ability to handle demands in day to day living, and security for eternity depends on the spiritual foundation that is used.
4. The Word of God is the only adequate basis for all that is done in this life.

Note: Starting in Matt.5:2, the Lord Jesus takes his disciples aside to teach them the principles of behaviour expected of those who call him "Lord". Many aspects of life are mentioned and in Matt.7:21 he states that not all those who call him "Lord" will enter into the kingdom. He shows that those who belong to Him are those who **1. HEAR** the Word, and **2. OBEY** it. It involves receiving and applying the Word.

This points to the need to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation according to what is revealed in His Word. In other words believing on the Lord Jesus according to what has been revealed is to have an eternal firm foundation. This will be seen in the life of the person who believes. It will give stability to the believer in the face of trials and temptations, and when life comes to an end, the firm foundation remains and the believer finds him or herself in Heaven.

SCENE No. 1. VISUAL AIDS: A scene in which two men are preparing to work, one with a shovel in hand and the other with construction materials, as each forms his ideas about the house he wants to build.

DEVELOPMENT:

- Sug.** Ask the students about their plans for the future. Young children will not have very clear ideas but teens will have something in mind. Refer to the eloquent pictures in the news where destruction caused by hurricanes and earthquakes point to the importance of having a firm foundation.
- The first stage represents a desire to build something adequate and enjoyable for life and for eternity.
- Cmt.** The choice of an adequate foundation starts during the lifetime as one prepares for eternity.
- Each one of us, teachers and students alike, have some hopes and dreams relating to our future.
 - Intentions and objectives may differ, as well as the variety and quality of the materials used to plan for the future, but the Word of God ought always to form the foundation.
- Cmt.** Each student is represented by one or the other of the two builders. The task of the teacher is to guide them to choose the best foundation, the words of the Lord Jesus in the Gospel.
- Apl.** The work of the builder who dug deep to find the rock (Lu. 6:48) shows the need required to be sure the foundation is safe and secure. Care in choosing **THE** firm foundation should be emphasized.
- The solidity of the house did not ultimately depend on the material that was built on top, but on the foundation that was placed underneath.
 - The Lord contrasted two men, examples of the two divisions of all humanity, the saved and the lost. Their concern about the future is described as being wise or foolish, rather than good and bad.

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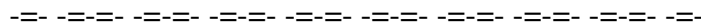


- All the teaching the Lord Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount are “these sayings of mine”, upon which the hearers were to build the “house” of their lives.
- Wisdom consists in knowing how to apply to our lives the truth expressed by the Lord Jesus in view of time and eternity.

Sug. Quote a verse of Scripture and ask the students what it means. This will require them to verbalize what the Lord Jesus is teaching. Follow this with showing how His words are HEARD and then discuss how they may be OBEYED.

Exm. “If ye love me, keep my commandments”; What are the commandments? How is this seen in practice? **Exm.** “Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in Me.”; How can this be applied to bring peace and tranquility to life?

Exm. In the Sermon on the Mount, consider these verses: Matt.5:8, 20, 37, 48; 6:12, 21, 24; 7:13-14, 20-23.



SCENE No. 2. VISUAL AIDS. A scene in which the two finished houses are seen, each with a different foundation. Add something to represent the forces of nature beating upon the houses. Have on hand a figure of a house in ruins to replace one of them and demonstrate the disastrous effect of the storm upon the house built upon the sand.

DEVELOPMENT:

Cmt. If it is possible to have figures of two houses that are similar, this will show that there are lives which at first glance seem alike.

- While one builder constructs his house upon the rock, the other builds upon the sand.

Cns. The lives of people show similarities found in their customs, manners, language, concerns, etc. Differences are not that great from the outside. Stability comes from the unseen foundation

- As the water rises, it undermines the foundation of the house built on the sand.
- The ruined house shows that the owner had mistaken expectations and was negligent about making sure he was building on the rock, a firm basis on which to build his house.
- The strength of a construction is revealed at the critical moment when the tempest strikes.

Cns. The three directions from which the foundation was tested. The rivers came on a horizontal plane. The winds surround the house. The rain fell from above.

Cmt. During each person’s life, his/her house experiences many tempests which test the firmness of the foundation on which the building has been placed.

- The Christian who does not have the Word of God as the guiding principle in his life when making decisions will feel afflicted and distressed.

Cns. The ultimate test of the foundation is when the cold blast of death brings an end to life on earth.

Apl. Only the person who has built on the Rock, Christ Jesus, will enter the eternal abode of Heaven.

- The unsaved person that has paid no attention to God’s Word will, sooner or later, find that all he/she has labored for will end in eternal destruction.

Cmt. The application of this part of this lesson is twofold.

1. To people in relation to their daily lives.
2. To people in relation to eternity.

