

ROCK, LORD, ROCK

Can your house withstand the coming storm? Is it built on rock or sand? As Christ Jesus closes His "sermon on the plain" in Luke 6, He declares, *"build your house on the rock."*

WHY DO YOU? - in verse 46, Jesus asks a pointed personal question: *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?"* Who do you think you're fooling? From verse 20 on, Jesus has been exploring the spiritual attitude of those committed to following Him. Disciples are living in His training program in order to become like Him, their master teacher.

But Jesus is not only their Lord and Master, He is Lord and Master of the universe. The repetition of "Lord, Lord" also conveys intimacy and emphasis. Yet only those who have received Him as Lord and Savior, trusting and obeying Him for salvation, can truly know Him. Because Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh, with divine authority and ability to save His people.

To be a Christian is to have believed and received Jesus as Christ, Lord, Savior. It is to be born again from above by the Holy Spirit. The ancient disciple's confession upon pain of death was *"Jesu ho' kurios"* Jesus is Lord. Not Caesar, not some idol-god, but the Creator and Redeemer, the rock of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ whom you trust and obey.

AND NOT DO? - *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?"* It is incongruous nonsense to say the words without living them out. He goes on, *"Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built."*

Daily intake of His words in the Bible will build your life on the rock of His truth. "His words are not given for eloquence or entertainment," notes RC Sproul, "but to reveal a pattern for living that provides stability amidst chaos, character and strength when everyone else is falling apart."

In the previous verses, Jesus promised His disciples they would have trials, being poor, hungry, weeping, hated, spurned on account of Him. Yet they would also have the Kingdom, be satisfied, rejoicing, leaping for joy, for great is their reward in heaven. That's why Jesus' disciples can love their enemies and neighbors, blessing and praying for those who abuse them, being merciful, not judging with condemnation, removing the log from their own eyes, bearing the fruit of Christ.

ROCK OR SAND? - Jesus' disciples will know peace even in the midst of trials and the storms of life, if they obey His words. *"But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."* Do you hear and heed Jesus' words?

Living out His truth by His power within? "What an old and common sin is a profession without practice, yielding no obedience to His commands" observes JC Ryle. "Talk of the lips is useless without obedience, the only sound evidence of faith." Think of a beach. During the heat of the day the sand is dry and hard and firm and you can build amazing castles. But when the tide comes in or a storm comes up, it's all washed away, because it is built on shifting sand.

Building a house takes about the same effort regardless of foundation. And it might be hard to tell the difference between godly and worldly until a storm reveals whether it was built on a lasting foundation. Christ Jesus is the cornerstone of God's house, the living object of personal faith.

BUILD YOUR LIFE - "When the final test comes at judgment, it is the foundation of your life that matters," says Leon Morris. It took more than talk to build the house you live in today. Your life works the same way. Build your life on Christ alone. He alone is your rock and salvation, so that when storms come and you cry *"Lord, Lord,"* then you won't crash, but will be answered with His deliverance. Jesus says, *"he who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

Security, success, and significance are not found in financial peace nor emotional peace, not even in spiritual peace. They are found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 14:21 He says *"whoever hears My commands and obeys them, is the one who loves Me."* The Greek word obey comes from the same root word as hear. It means really hearing, following through with action. This is counterintuitive to the world's ways. The radical life of a disciple of Jesus is to hear and heed, to trust and obey, in the power of the Spirit - building your life on Christ alone! ☐