



The Good Builder

Key idea:

When we pursue Christ, we can withstand the storm, be cleansed from our sin, and grow wise as we become more like Him.

Key text:

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Key points:

1. The Sermon on the Mount was revolutionary when Jesus gave it, and it's still revolutionary today.
2. Building on the rock does not come naturally to us. Seeking pleasure, relying on my own wisdom, believing I know what's best for me, these are things I tend to value more than building on the rock.
3. The world teaches us an almost opposite version of ethics and self-esteem than Jesus teaches us. In Jesus' kingdom though, it's not dog eat dog, it's dog help dog. It's not every man for himself, it's every man for his brother. It's not credit where credit is due, it's credit where none is due.
4. Storms come in every life. Are we building on rock or sinking sand?
5. Jesus describes less what we're to do, and more who we're supposed to be: light and salt.

6. He teaches us to love our enemies because He loved and died for His enemies. Us.
7. Jesus is the righteousness we're to seek.
8. Jesus gives us the right to call His Father, our Father.
9. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you serves both as the foundation for all ethics, and as a judge who finds me wanting.
10. The kingdom isn't for those who think they deserve it, but for the spiritually impoverished.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Does it surprise you that the Sermon on the Mount says those who are blessed are the spiritually impoverished, the mourners, the meek; and not the spiritually strong?
3. Was it new information that Jesus equates Himself with our righteousness?
4. Do you see ways in which the world both depends on the Sermon on the Mount for its values, and tries to negate Jesus' teachings?
5. What do you think Jesus meant when He said we're to be salt?
6. How do you think it would have been heard by Jesus' listeners then that we're to love our enemies? How do you think it's heard today?
7. Are you able to always "do unto others as you would have done unto you?"
8. People often say Jesus is a good teacher, but don't account for the fact He often taught that He was also Lord and Savior. Do you see who He claims to be in the scriptures?
9. Do you believe there are things other than Jesus that can see us through hard times, suffering and death?
10. What is your response to hearing that our only hope to surviving the storm is to build on the rock of Jesus' teachings? What of His teachings stood out most to you?
11. Which of Jesus' teachings are you most deficient in complying with?