

The Rock and the Sand

Introduction

Matthew 7:21-27

1. This parable is really about building on a foundation. Every building and every institution has a foundation.
 - A. Foundation: 1) “the base on which something rests; the supporting part of a wall, house, etc.” 2) “the fundamental principle on which something is founded; basis”
2. A solid foundation keeps a building steady and erect. It keeps an institution on the right tract based upon its particular foundation principles.
 - A. Foundations can be good or bad. The kind of foundation determines how well the building or institution survives.
 - 1) This is true of governments, clubs, organizations, and even churches.
 - a. Example: A government built upon strong, solid foundation principles and maintaining those principles will remain strong. A departure will result in instability and eventual failure.
3. The person that hears the Word and obeys it is compared to a wise man building on a rock foundation.
 - A. The builders in this parable are Christ and men.
 - B. The foundations are the teachings of Christ and teachings of men.
 - C. The buildings are the Lord’s church and the churches of men.

The Rock

1. The Lord's church is built on the rock and that rock is Jesus

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

A. There is no other reliable foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

B. Wise builders build on Christ

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

2. When one builds on the rock, the firm foundation of Christ, then one can withstand the winds and rain of life.

A. These come in the various trials and tribulations that we must face.

James 1:2-8

The Sand

1. Denominations are built on the sand. Those that build on the sand foundation are foolish builders. This foundation will NOT stand.

A. Outward appearances will mean nothing when one has to face the storms of life.

1) The Pharisees were rebuked because they only payed attention to the outward appearance.

Luke 11:39-40 Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also?"

What Those on the Rock and Sand Believe:

ROCK	SAND
Scriptures are inspired 2 Timothy 3:16-17	Man's Doctrine is inspired The Pope, J. Smith, etc.
The Gospel is God's power to save Romans 1:16	Doctrine of men will save Matthew 15:9; Galatians 1:8-9
Those who obey will be saved Hebrews 5:8-9; 11:6	Faith only saves James 2:24
The Lord adds the saved to the church Acts 2:47	Join the church of your choice
There is one church 1 Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 4:4 Colossians 1:18	There are many churches
In unity in the one body John 17:20; 1 Corinthians 1:10	Choose the way that is liked best
In Bible names Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16	There is nothing in a name Acts 4:12
In worship according to the N.T. Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; Acts 20:7	Any kind of worship is acceptable (Sincerity is what is important) Matthew 15:9

Conclusion

1. **Only ONE foundation will endure the tests of time. What foundation are you building your life on?**
 - A. **Only the one who builds their life on the foundation of Christ will stand now and forever.**
2. **Are you doing the Will of the Father and building your life on the solid foundation?**

Invitation

Place	Date

Rock and the Sand.wpd
Richard Thetford, July 2010