

**FOUNDATION**  
**Laying the Foundation**  
**Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3**

**Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3**~ <sup>5:12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. <sup>6:1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup>and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And this we will do if God permits.

I. Introduction

I hope you brought your Bible this morning because we are going to have some fun. Learning and growing in our understanding is fun to me, especially learning and growing in the things of God. There is no greater joy and excitement. And I hope it is the same for you. This is why you are here this morning instead of sleeping in bed.

While our main text today will be from Hebrews chapters 5 and 6, I would like to ask you to turn with me in your Bible to Matthew 7 and starting at verse 24. Keep your finger on Hebrews 5 because we will be back there. But to start off, let's turn to Matthew 7 and look at verse 24.

As you are turning, let me make a few comments. The Christian life is an intricate, multifaceted living. And as such, the Bible uses many metaphors to describe the Christian life in order to capture the beauty of these many gems in the Christian life. For instance, the Bible equates the Christian living to a RACE in an Olympic game. Paul pens in 1 Corinthians 9.

**1 Corinthians 9:24**~ <sup>24</sup>Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (NASB)

For ...

**1 Corinthians 9:25**~ <sup>25</sup>Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. (NASB)

Also in 2 Timothy 2, Paul instructs:

**2 Timothy 2:5**~ <sup>5</sup>Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. (NASB)

We are in a race ... a race where we run and win together. That's the idea.

Another metaphor of the Christian life is a WARFARE where we are soldiers in this cosmic spiritual battle against a relentless and unforgiving enemy. Again, Paul writes to his young protégé in 2 Timothy:

**2 Timothy 2:4~** <sup>4</sup>No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. (NASB)

Therefore, we are to ...

**Ephesians 6:11~** <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (NASB)

There are many, many metaphors. The Christian life is compared to FARMING and PLANTING.

**2 Timothy 2:6~** <sup>6</sup>The hard-working farmer [Paul writes] ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. (NASB)

And again,

**1 Corinthians 3:6~** <sup>6</sup>I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

There are many, many inspiring and insightful metaphors that we can spend months just exploring and enjoy ourselves.

## II. Foundation and Building

There is another metaphor that captures the essence of the Christian life as well as the Christian identity. And the metaphor is that of a BUILDING. Our Christian life is like building a building. Paul writes:

**1 Corinthians 3:9-10~** <sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. (NASB)

"We are God's building," Paul informs. And the most important part of building a building is laying the foundation.

**1 Corinthians 3:10~** ... like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it.

THE FOUNDATION DETERMINES THE TYPE OF BUILDING. If we want to build a little tepees or a hut made of leaves and mud, we do not need a firm foundation. But if we want to build a mansion or a skyscraper, we cannot build it on the same foundation that we build a hut.

The type of foundation determines the type of building. And if the foundation is damaged, the building is damaged.

Dawn and I came home one day and noticed cracks on our kitchen tiles. At first, it was a little small crack and only on one tile, so we left it alone. It was no big deal. No sense in spending money and time and energy fixing it. It was hardly noticeable. Until that small crack became a bigger crack. And it spread from one tile to the next. But still, we left it alone. Or rather I should say, "I left it alone."

We invited one of our friends over with their little boy. We sat there in our kitchen table talking and having fun while their little boy was running around in the kitchen. We were ignoring the cracked tiles underneath our feet. That was until we noticed some red smears on the boy's knee. He had cut himself on the broken tiles. We could not ignore the problem anymore. By not fixing the problem and kept on delaying, someone got hurt from it. So the first thing we did was to check on the foundation.

Luckily, we did not have a foundation problem. But let's assume that we did have a foundation problem. If all we did was replaced the tile, in our mind, we fixed the problem. No more cracks. No more little boys cutting themselves. No more little doggie licking up the small, broken tile pieces. The place looked nice, immaculate and beautiful. But a few months later, the cracks started to show up again. So this time, we replaced the tile early. No more problems. Until a few months later, more cracks appeared again.

We thought we had fixed the problem. But we did not. The problem was the foundation, not the building. ***The building was a physical symptom of a failing foundation.*** We had to fix the foundation first before we could fix the building.

### 1. An Unstable Foundation

And I think that is true of many people trying to build their Christian life ... their forgiven life. We have never laid a firm foundation. Some of us do not even know what a firm foundation looks like. We do not even know the building materials to make a firm foundation.

### 2. Building a Beautiful Building

So we start to build our Christian life on top of an unstable foundation. At first everything looks nice. We have a hospitable house ... a beautiful building ... and an adoring adobe. We are so happy and full of joy living in such a precious place and we want everyone to see it. We invite people of all sorts to come and see this beautiful building of ours. Our life has changed. We love more, give more, help more ...

### 3. Crazy Cracks

Then, the little crazy cracks start coming in our life out of nowhere. They start appearing in our house because of an unstable foundation ... a little crack here and a little crack there. But we ignore those cracks, you see, because sometimes they are not even noticeable and it takes so

much work to fix them. We still invite people over, hoping they do not see those cracks in our place of residence ... in our life. We laugh them off. That is, until someone gets hurt by those cracks, and it ceases to be funny. Our guests cut themselves because of our cracks ... because we have decided not to fix them. Maybe we have even cut ourselves on our little crazy cracks.

#### 4. Ridiculous Repair

Now, we cannot enjoy our cracks anymore. Someone got hurt by them. They are beginning to tarnish our loving home. So we repair them by fixing these things that are on the surface, but not the foundation. We cannot see the foundation. We can only see the surface. So we only fix that which we can see. And at first, everything looks nice again, thinking that we have solved the problem ... until the cracks start appearing again in our life. So we fix them again. And on and on it goes. We try to fix what is on the surface, but never once do we try to fix what is underneath. And as such, the problems continue to arise.

### III. A Firm and Faulty Foundation

Jesus instructs us about two foundations in Matthew 7 in his timeless Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 7 starting at verse 24 and ending in verse 27.

**Matthew 7:24-27**~<sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock [that is, a firm foundation].<sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.<sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand [that is, a faulty foundation].<sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Let me give you a quick few thoughts here.

1. First, there are two types of People: either wise or foolish. (Matthew 7:24,26)

Jesus says that there are only two types of people. There is not a third category. Either we are wise or we are fools. And please notice the qualification that makes us either wise or foolish. What makes us wise or foolish is not because we have the words of God nor we hear the words of God.

You see that? Both the wise person and the foolish person hear the words of Jesus. They both have access to his knowledge as the wise master builder. The difference is what they do with what they hear. The wise man does them. The foolish man does not.

God’s word does not work in our life because we hear it. God’s word works in our life because we work it. We can come and hear God’s word, but that does not make us wise. We can come and get excited about God’s word, clapping and dancing and hooting and hollering, but that does not make our life better. It does not matter how many Scriptures we memorize. It does not

matter how many verses we can quote. It matter if we apply them. That is what makes us wise, or the opposite if we do not apply them, a fool.

2. Second, there are two types of Foundations: either firm or faulty. (Matthew 7:24,26)

Both people are building a house. There is not a third category of one who does not build a house. The only person who is not building a house is a dead person. If we are alive, we are building a house. The question is not, "If we are building a house or not?" No. We are all building a house. The question is, "What foundation are we going to build the house on?"

Remember what I said earlier? The type of foundation we have will determine the type of house we will build.

3. Third, a Storm will come. (Matthew 7:25,27)

The storm comes to both the wise man and the foolish man. Hearing the word of Jesus and applying the word of Jesus in our life does not exempt us from the storm. The storm is inevitable. In fact, everything is the same for the wise man and the foolish man. Everything. Both build a house. Both lay a foundation. Both will face the storm. The difference is one will be prepared when the storm comes and the other will not.

#### IV. Investment of Foundation

What kind of person do you choose to be? Do you choose to be a wise person or do you choose to be a foolish person? In Jesus' parable, the determining factor of being wise or foolish is the kind of foundation you and I choose to build. Either we choose to build a firm foundation or a faulty one. Knowing this, why would anyone choose to build on a faulty foundation? Well, let me give you three quick thoughts.

1. First, a faulty foundation is Quick while a firm foundation takes Time.

It is an investment. The fool is so busy that he does not want to take the time to invest in a firm foundation. Make no mistake about this: there are many important things in our life that require our attention. To say that we are busy is not to say that we are busy doing dumb or unimportant things. Everything is fighting for our time and it is a matter of seeing that a firm foundation is the most important among other important things.

Or the fool is too distracted to be bother by the amount of time it takes. When I looked at my cracked floor, I knew it would take too long to fix it, so I delayed ... and delayed ... and delayed. I just need to realize that delay will make the problem worst.

2. Second, a faulty foundation is Easy while a firm foundation is Hard.

It is hard work and it is difficult work. The fool is so lazy that she does not want to put in the hard work. But anything of value requires hard work.

The fool takes the easy route so she could enjoy life now. But it will cost him later. The wise person takes the hard route now so she could enjoy life later.

3. Third, a faulty foundation is Cheap while a firm foundation is Costly.

Building a firm foundation is costly. In fact, Jesus says that it will cost us everything that we have, even our own life.

These are the reasons why fools opt for a faulty foundation. But the wise will invest in the future.

## V. The Materials For a Firm Foundation

Knowing that we need a firm foundation, the next question is, “What makes a firm foundation?” In other words, what are the foundations of a Christian life ... of a Forgiven Life?

Hebrews chapter 6 gives us six elementary doctrines that are to be the foundation of the Christian life.

**Hebrews 6:1-3**~ <sup>1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of <sup>[1]</sup>repentance from dead works and of <sup>[2]</sup>faith toward God, <sup>2</sup>and of instruction about <sup>[3]</sup>washings, the <sup>[4]</sup>laying on of hands, the <sup>[5]</sup>resurrection of the dead, and <sup>[6]</sup>eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.

These are the foundation of the Christian life. While the author of Hebrews is telling us to move beyond these foundations, we are actually going to take some time and stay on top of these foundations. Why? Because I wonder if we have been thoroughly equipped and trained. I think that maybe the Church has not been really instructing us in these basic elementary doctrines.

I so I hope you will join me in this important series on FOUNDATION in the following weeks to come.

## VI. The Blessing

**Presider:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you.

**Congregation:** And also to you.