

Week 6 — Luke 6:46–49

Built to Last

Big Idea

The only life that endures is the one built on obedience to Jesus—because Jesus Himself is faithful.

“Lord, Lord...” — and the Question Beneath It

Jesus opens with a question that cuts through religious familiarity:

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

This question is not aimed at outsiders. It is aimed at people who already know His name, His words, and His teaching.

And if we allow ourselves a moment of honesty, disobedience is not always driven by defiance.

Often, beneath disobedience is something far more vulnerable than rebellion.

In seasons of suffering, loss, uncertainty, or waiting, there is a voice that does not merely challenge *our* faithfulness—but quietly questions **God’s**.

- Will He come through?
- Will He do what He has promised?
- Will He provide? Heal? Save? Strengthen?
- *He will hold me fast... will He?*

This fear—the fear of the Lord’s faithlessness—is soul-crippling. And it is a fear worthy of a real fight.

Jesus is not simply exposing hypocrisy. He is confronting the suspicion that obedience may not be safe.

So Jesus moves from question to image—because everyone understands building. And everyone understands what happens when a foundation is tested.

I. Hearing Isn't Enough (vv. 46–47)

Obedience Reveals What We Trust

Jesus draws a clear contrast:

Hearing His words vs. Doing what He says

Both builders:

- Hear the same teaching
- Receive the same truth
- Have equal access to Jesus

The difference is not knowledge—it is response.

Important clarification:

- Jesus is not teaching salvation by works
- He is teaching that obedience reveals allegiance

Obedience is not the price of discipleship. It is the proof of it. But this goes deeper.

We are not doers of the word *instead of* trusting God.

We are doers of the word **because** we trust that God keeps His word.

We live in a culture full of spiritual consumption:

- Sermons streamed
- Podcasts downloaded
- Scriptures highlighted

But formation does not happen through exposure alone.

Listening without obedience is like admiring blueprints while quietly doubting the architect will ever finish the house.

Discipleship begins where listening turns into living.

II. Foundations Are Revealed Under Pressure (vv. 48–49)

Jesus now turns to what both builders share.

The Shared Experience

- Both houses face storms
- Same rain
- Same floods
- Same pressure

Faith in Jesus does not exempt anyone from storms.

Storms do not create foundations.

They expose them.

Storms may come as:

- Crisis or loss
- Temptation that lingers
- Disappointment with God
- Cultural pressure
- Or the slow erosion of faith over time

The collapse is not immediate. Shallow faith often looks fine—until it doesn't.

The Deeper Question Beneath the Storm

When pressure comes, the real question surfaces:

Can I trust God enough to obey Him if that obedience actually costs me something? What if it is more than I am willing to pay?

Or put another way:

Will He come through?

The shallow builder builds quickly—on the surface—because digging deep delays visible progress. Depth is costly. Depth takes time. Depth feels risky.

But depth is invisible only until it becomes indispensable.

Building Below the Waterline

Every summer we drive east toward Ocean City, heading over the **Chesapeake Bay Bridge**—and if you’ve ever driven that bridge, you know it’s not everyone’s favorite experience.

You’re high up. There’s water everywhere. The lanes feel narrower than they should be. And depending on the wind, you start praying a little harder than usual.

Now, no one driving that bridge is thinking about its beauty. You’re not admiring architecture. You’re just hoping the thing holds.

What struck me later is this:

when they built that bridge, the *most important work* didn’t happen where anyone could see it.

Most of the labor happened **below the waterline**.

Pillars driven deep. Foundations sunk far beneath the surface.

Long before a single car crossed safely, someone was doing slow, hidden, costly work that no one would ever applaud.

And we’ve seen what happens when what *supports* a structure is compromised.

Not long ago, the **Francis Scott Key Bridge** was struck and torn apart. What failed wasn’t traffic flow or surface design—it was what could no longer bear the weight placed upon it.

Here’s the point:

Structures don’t fail because of what’s visible. They fail because of what’s unseen.

Jesus is saying the same thing about our lives.

The strength of your discipleship is not revealed in public moments, emotional highs, or visible success—but in what has been built **below the waterline**, over time, through quiet obedience.

III. Discipleship Is Proven Over Time

Obedience Rooted in God's Faithfulness

This passage is not about perfection.

The wise builder still faces storms. The faithful disciple still struggles. The difference is endurance.

Building on Jesus means:

- Trusting His words when they are costly
- Ordering life around His teaching
- Allowing obedience to shape habits, priorities, and loves

Discipleship is not proven in moments of inspiration, but in years of obedience.

But how do we obey when outcomes are uncertain?

Scripture answers that question—not with theory, but with testimony.

IV. “Even If He Does Not” — A Foundation Deeper Than Outcomes

Scripture gives us a picture of faith that does not negotiate with circumstances.

In Book of Daniel chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stand before a king and a furnace.

They are commanded to bow—or burn. And they say something extraordinary:

Our God is able to deliver us. **But even if He does not...**
we will not serve your gods.

This is not reckless faith. This is anchored faith.

Notice what they do *not* do:

- They do not demand certainty
- They do not bargain with God

- They do not make obedience conditional

Their obedience is not rooted in what God will do.

It is rooted in **who God is**.

They had already settled the question *before* the fire was lit.

God does not have to prove Himself to deserve their faithfulness.

This is the deepest foundation Jesus is calling us to build upon.

Theological Weight

Obedience is not a wager that God will come through.

Obedience is trust in a God who is faithful—whether or not the outcome matches our hopes.

A shallow foundation asks:

Will God come through for me?

A deep foundation says:

Even if He does not do what I hope, I will not abandon who He is.

V. The Decision Before Us

This brings us back to Jesus' question:

“Why do you call me ‘Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Jesus leaves no middle ground.

Not:

- Hearing vs. rejecting

But:

- Hearing vs. doing

And beneath that:

- Conditional trust vs. settled allegiance

Good intentions are not foundations.
Spiritual admiration is not obedience.
Agreement with Jesus is not surrender to Jesus.

Obedience flows from trust—and trust rests on the character of a faithful God.

Conclusion: Built to Last

This is where Luke's Gospel turns toward the cross.

From here on:

- The call intensifies
- The cost becomes clearer
- The invitation becomes unavoidable

Storms will come. Fear will whisper. The question will return:

Will He come through?

And Scripture answers—not with guarantees of comfort, but with the promise of faithfulness.

Final Invitation:

If Jesus truly is Lord, then His words are not suggestions.

They are not hopeful guesses.

They are not optional.

They are the ground beneath our feet.

Build your life on Him—
not because obedience is easy,
not because outcomes are certain,
but because **He is faithful.**