

Built to Last: Standing Firm When the Storms Come

Text: Luke 6:46–49

Theme: A life built on obedience to Christ's words can withstand any storm.

Introduction: Built to Last

Imagine standing on the beach, looking at two houses side by side. One is stunning—glass walls, white trim, beautiful decks overlooking the ocean. The other? Simple, built on rock farther inland. The first house looks like a dream... until the tide rises. The waves pound against it, and before long, the sand beneath gives way. It collapses, gone with the storm.

But that second structure? It's built into solid rock—like a lighthouse. The winds scream, the waves crash, but it doesn't move. It was built to last.

That's the image Jesus gives us in Luke 6:46–49. He isn't telling us how to *avoid* storms—He's showing us how to *endure* them. The question isn't *if* storms will come, but *what you're standing on when they do*.

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)

“The one who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on rock.” (v. 48)

Let's talk about what happens when storms come—and how building your life on the Rock, Jesus Christ, makes all the difference.

(read text)

1. The Storms of Life Deplete Our Reserves (Energy)

“They drain our strength and stamina.”

When Jesus describes the storm that “beat vehemently” against the house, He uses a word that means *to pound violently*. These aren't light rains—they're relentless, exhausting forces.

Life's storms are like that. They don't just bruise your emotions; they drain your energy.

- A diagnosis.

- A betrayal.
- A long season of waiting.
- A child you can't reach.

Each wave hits, and after a while, you're tired—not just physically, but spiritually.

Even godly people run out of steam. Elijah, after standing up to 450 prophets of Baal, ran into the wilderness and said, *"I've had enough, Lord!"* (1 Kings 19:4).

But listen—God didn't scold Elijah for being tired. He fed him, rested him, and reminded him that he wasn't alone.

Isaiah 40:29–31 says, "He gives power to the faint... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

Psalms 73:26 reminds us, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

And Paul says, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed... struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:7–9)

Think of your spiritual life like a battery. You can start the day full, but storms drain you. If you're not connected to a constant power source, you'll eventually die out. That's why even Jesus "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). The Son of God Himself stayed connected to the Father.

When the storms of life deplete your reserves, remember—the Rock restores. Stay plugged into the Source. Don't run from Him when you're tired; rest *on* Him.

The storm drains your *energy*, but it also steals something deeper—your *peace*.

2. The Storms of Life Diminish Our Rest (Peace)

"They rob us of peace and stillness."

Jesus says the house without a foundation collapsed. Without Christ, peace gives way to panic. The person who hears His words but doesn't obey lives in constant anxiety—because there's no anchor beneath the surface.

But Jesus never promised a life without storms; He promised *peace in the middle of them*.

John 14:27 — “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.”

Philippians 4:6–7 — “Do not be anxious about anything... and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Psalm 46 — “God is our refuge and strength... therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way.”

And then there's Mark 4, when Jesus and His disciples were caught in a literal storm. The wind howled, the waves flooded the boat, and the disciples panicked while Jesus... slept. When they woke Him, He said, “Peace, be still.” And the storm obeyed.

Think of a snow globe. Shake it hard, and everything swirls wildly. But when you set it down and let it rest, the pieces settle and you can finally see clearly. Life's storms shake us—but the foundation of Christ gives us that stillness inside, even when the outside world won't stop spinning.

When your life is built on Jesus, storms may rage *around* you, but peace rules *within* you. True rest isn't the absence of trouble—it's the presence of Christ.

The storm drains our *energy* and disturbs our *peace*. But there's something else—storms can also distort our *perspective*.

3. The Storms of Life Distort Our Reality (Perspective)

“They twist our perspective, making us doubt truth and lose sight of God's presence.”

Jesus says the person who hears but does not obey is like someone building without a foundation.

From the outside, the house might look fine—but storms reveal what’s underneath. When the storm hits, the illusion collapses.

Storms test what we *can’t* see—the foundation.

And that’s exactly what happens to us in life. When things fall apart, we start to question: *Is God still good? Is He still here? Does any of this make sense?*

2 Corinthians 5:7 — “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

Psalms 73 — Asaph was jealous of the wicked and almost lost faith until he entered God’s presence and saw clearly again.

Romans 8:28 — “All things work together for good...”

James 1:2–4 — “Count it all joy... knowing that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

Storms are like funhouse mirrors. They distort what’s true. You think you’re seeing reality—but it’s warped.

Or think of Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14. As long as his eyes were on Jesus, he walked above the waves. But when he looked at the storm, he sank.

When the storm distorts your perspective, the Rock brings clarity. Build your faith not on your *feelings*, but on the *facts* of God’s Word. Storms reveal what you really believe—whether your foundation is in Christ or in your circumstances.

The Rock That Restores

So, what do we do when storms come?

We build deep. We dig down until our lives rest on the solid Rock—Jesus Christ.

Because when your life is built on Him:

- **Christ restores your reserves.** “Come to me... and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)
- **Christ renews your rest.** “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4:8)

- **Christ reorients your reality.** “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:2)

When your life is built on the Rock, storms can’t destroy you. They may shake you—but they’ll never separate you from the truth, peace, and strength you have in Christ.

Romans 8:38–39 — “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Think again of that lighthouse—waves crashing, winds howling, the night roaring. Yet through it all, its light still shines. The storm doesn’t define the lighthouse—the rock beneath it does.

That’s what it means to build your life on Christ. The storms don’t make you crumble; they prove your foundation.