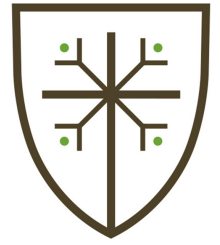


PARABLES OF JESUS

Summer Sermon Series

SERMON NOTES



September 3, 2023

SERMON INFO

TITLE

A Life Well-Built

PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

TEXTS

Isaiah 55:1-3

Ephesians 2:19-22

Luke 6:46-49

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Instead of the foundation of Jesus, what foundations do we often build for ourselves?
2. When you survey your heart, who or what do you find you are living for?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Brent concluded our sermon series on the parables with Jesus' last parable – the houses built on rock and sand. Both builders in the story face hardship and trial. But what is it that separates the two?

Survey

We see in the introduction to this parable that Jesus is speaking to a crowd of professing believers – “why do you call me Lord, Lord?” But sincere faith is more than a mere profession of words about your faith. Hearing Jesus is meant to produce obedience to him. The very word “obey” comes from the Hebrews “shema” which means to hear. What you hear is what you will obey. We each have an ethos (something we live by) and a telos (something we live for). When you survey the landscape of your life, who or what are you really living for?

Excavate

The first distinction we see between the wise and foolish builders is in digging. The wise builder dug deep. If you dig too deep, you'll likely reach insecurities and instabilities. Which is why builders dig. If you don't get to the level of insecurities, you will build your life upon them. Most of us live out our insecurities because we're afraid of facing them. We build our lives on top of them. The person who's willing to be undone, to dig beneath the surface, is the one who can be built up.

Foundation

We may hope at the end of the parable to get a robust argument for why Jesus' way is best. But that isn't what Jesus does. Instead, he provides us with a material. Rock. Throughout the Old Testament, God is often portrayed as a rock to his people – a refuge, security, strength. What Jesus tells us is that what we need most is to be built on him and by him. God is both builder and foundation. He has already laid the foundation in Jesus and calls us to build upon it. You won't be spared the storms in life, but you won't fall in the midst of them.