

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Building on the Rock” Luke 6

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 6: 46-49

1. Building on the Rock

Through these verses the Lord teaches the wisdom of building that can last the test of storms:

- a. We are all building a life of our own while here on the earth.
 - Some build a great palatial mansion, some a modest house and some a shack.
 - Recent attacks of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma starkly remind us of the eventual onslaught of deaths that will come to us and destroy all things temporal in our life.
 - We have to leave behind what we build naturally. We cannot take our natural achievements and buildings with us beyond death regardless of how great they might be. What we build can be ours to enjoy only while we have the earthly life. But the Lord Jesus teaches us how to build for eternity.
- b. One who builds on the rock
 - He digs deep and lays the foundation of his house on the rock
 - o Digging deep implies that we search below the wisdom of this world and seek out the lasting principles of the truth of God.
 - o Building on the foundation implies that we build our life on the unchanging principles found in the word of God.
 - Floods come and the waves hit the house hard, yet the house is not shaken. Such a house/ life will not be shaken by the hurricanes of this life and the onslaught of death.

When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation. [Prov. 10:25]
 - Apostle Paul taught that the building we aspire to build has to be of eternal nature:

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [2 Cor. 5:1]
- c. One who builds on the sand/ ground without a solid foundation.
 - He builds not on the rock – no true foundation.
 - o Most people build their life without any firm principles. They just live on being swayed by the currents of this world. Many build their lives on temporal principles – for material prosperity and worldly honor and glory only. They do not have the truth of Jesus Christ in them.
 - Tower of Babel construction angered God and He destroyed it and scattered the people all over the earth.

And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” [Gen. 11: 4]
 - Solomon built the temple for God; yet this temple was totally destroyed. Why did God allow this great structure to be destroyed multiple times? Stephen, a first-century martyr, clarified the reason.

But Solomon built Him a house. “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things? [Acts 7: 47-50]
- d. Eventual consequence of life: Floods come and the waves hit the house hard, and the house is destroyed greatly. Recent hurricanes are a reminder of this eventuality of life in eternity’s perspective.

His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” [Matt 3:12]

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. [Rev. 21:9]

2. Meaning of the Rock in the Scriptures

- a. Moses identified the Rock as the Lord.

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. [Deut. 32:4]

- b. David also sang about the Lord being his rock:

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. [Psalm 18:2]

- c. Jesus Christ as the Rock of Salvation

- Water that sustained the people of Israel in the wilderness flowed from the Rock. Paul likened this rock in the wilderness to Christ. Christ sustains and nurtures our spiritual life and wealth that will carry us into eternity.

All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. [1 Cor. 10:3-4]

- Rock was a place of refuge to David. While living under King Saul’s pursuit, David and his people often dwelt in rocky hills, hiding among large rocks and in caves. In Christ there is safety, relief and strength to last not only the hurricanes of this life but of deaths.

Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. [Ps. 31: 2]

- Rock signifies the truth of God, the source of His salvation to God’s people. When we have Jesus as our Rock, we are safe from God’s wrath. In fact, our place in God’s promise of eternal salvation and blessings is secure.

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. [Ps. 95:1]

3. How do we build on the Rock?

- a. What are our fundamental beliefs/ convictions about the life and beyond?

- Let us think of the motives of people building or living on the ocean shoreline while knowing that hurricanes come periodically and hit the area: Pleasure vs. safety
- Now, let us extend this comparison to two fundamentally different attitudes towards life: Living for this earthly life vs. living for eternity.
- Where do each of us stand in the light of this comparison? Am I living safely away from the shoreline of eventual death/ destruction or living for the short years to enjoy the view while ignoring the eventual hurricane attack?

- b. How do we build on the Rock?

- Make Jesus Christ the rock of your salvation as King David did.
- Adopt His principles as the principles of your own life.
- Live for such principles while this short life lasts, firmly believing your rewards are awaiting you in heaven.