

When the Rains Descend, the Floods Rise, and the Winds Blow

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
And the rains came a'tumbling down!

The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,
And the rains came a'tumbling down!

The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the house on the sand went SPLAT!
So let's build our house on the Lord Jesus Christ,
So let's build our house on the Lord Jesus Christ,
So let's build our house on the Lord Jesus Christ
And the blessings will come down.

The blessings come down as our prayers go up,
The blessings come down as our prayers go up,
The blessings come down as our prayers go up,
So let's build our house on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Introduction:

A. The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is going to fall. Scientists travel to the town of Pisa every year to measure the building's slow descent. They report that the 179-foot tower, which was built in 1173, moves about one-twentieth of an inch a year, and is now 17 feet out of plumb. Recent renovations may have saved the 810-year old tower and prevent it from collapsing. Quite significantly, the word "pisa" means "marshy land," which gives some clue as to why the tower began to lean even before it was completed. In addition, its foundation is only 10 feet deep. The reason the Leaning Tower of Pisa is leaning is because it is built on a faulty foundation.

B. Matt. 7:24-29 - A Tale of Two Life Builders

I. SIMILARITIES

A. Both heard the words of Jesus - Matt. 7:24, 26

1. They represented the two kinds of hearers in the audience of His Sermon on the Mount. They both heard Jesus speak of the way of righteousness and of what would bring salvation.
- B. Both built houses
 1. Both kinds of people built a house based on their understanding of what Jesus said. Each one built a life based on how they interpreted the message. This means that both people believed the message and applied it as they saw fit.
- C. Both built in the same area
 1. Matt. 7:27 describes a severe storm. This storm affected both houses, so they must have been built near one another.
- D. Both would have built similar houses
 1. Nothing is said about their houses being different. In harmony with the purpose of His parable and by implication of the times, they would have used similar materials and a similar design.
 2. The purpose is about how hearers respond differently to the Gospel.
 3. It is not hard - 1Cor. 15:3-4; Mark 16:16
 4. The difference is how a person reacts to it; will he build his life on the gospel or his own will?

II. SEPARATIONS

- A. One man built his house on the sand
 1. Sand is unstable, ever changing and moving. Sand offers no stability; it can never provide a firm foundation.
 2. Building on the sand speaks of people who hear the Gospel, but instead build their lives on the shifting sands of human philosophy, erring doctrines, uninformed opinions, and emotional attachments.
 3. To them, the word of God is open to interpretation. If He commands them to do something, they will obey if they approve it. If they don't like it, they won't do it.
 4. People build on the sand because it is easy. It requires little effort to dig a foundation or set a post. Just a little change here, and a small effort there, and they can fool themselves into thinking they are right with the Lord. A life built on the sand requires little commitment, no sacrifice, and marginal faith.
 5. Sand builders are quick with cop-outs and excuses - Luke 9:57-62
- B. One man built his house on the rock
 1. Rock refers to "a large outcropping of rock; bedrock."
 2. The other man dug deep until he reached bedrock and built his house on it. The rock does not move unless the whole earth moves it. It is considered unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation.
 3. Rock builders do what God tells them to do in His Word. What God warns them not to do, they avoid. They pay any price, walk any path, and do anything the Lord tells them to do. The house built on the rock is built by someone who realizes that God deserves his very best, his all. He honors the Lord.

4. By this, the redeemed know they are redeemed - 1John 2:3-6
- C. All lives must be built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 1. Matt. 16:16-18; John 14:6; 1Peter 2:4-7; Acts 4:12; 1Cor. 3:11

III. SIGNIFICANCES

- A. The rains came, the floods rose, and the wind blew. It could represent the storms of life, but as it is talking about the building of a life, it most likely has reference to Judgment at the end
- B. The house built on the sand could not face the storm designed to measure the purpose of a house, shelter and safety, and it collapsed - Matt. 7:27
 1. There was nothing left to show for the life lived on the sand. The point is the absolute futility and empty waste of a life not based on the Gospel
 2. There was nothing left of the hopes, dreams, plans, efforts, works, or anything; everything unrelated to the Gospel of Christ will be destroyed and swept away as if it had never existed.
 3. 1John 5:12; John 6:37-40
- C. The house that was built on the rock experienced the same storm.
 1. The rain, the flood and the wind "beat upon" the house. Beat means "to strike, to batter."
 2. This house was battered, but it stood against the storm that was thrown against it. It stood on a firm foundation.
- D. That's the point of the parable
 1. You can build your life on keeping up appearances: attending services at church and being a good person in the eyes of other people and still be lost.
 2. You can build your life on good works, moral living, and human creeds and be lost.
 3. You can build your life around sincere dedication to intellectual atheism, human philosophies, or anything else you can name apart from the Gospel of Christ, and you will still be lost.
 4. But if you build your life on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, your life will mean something and you will be saved - Ecc. 12:13

Conclusion:

- A. The person who built his house on the sand did not intend for his house to fall.
 1. He thought he was doing the right thing.
 2. He thought he was building a house that would probably stand against anything that came.
- B. There is a storm coming, and your house is right in its path, only this storm isn't rain; it will be fire.
 1. When that storm comes, and it surely will, the only houses that will stand are those houses built on the solid foundation of the Word of God.
 2. What are you building on? 1Cor. 3:11-13