

The unfolding of your words gives light.

## To Seek and to Save

### An Exposition of the Gospel of Luke

<sup>46</sup>Why do you call Me, “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say?<sup>a</sup> <sup>47</sup>Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them<sup>b</sup>, I will show you whom he is like<sup>c</sup>: <sup>48</sup>he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock<sup>d</sup>; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built<sup>e</sup>. <sup>49</sup>But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation<sup>f</sup>; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great<sup>a, b</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> 6:46 **Why do you call Me, “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say?** This reveals the critical difference between church goers and Christ followers.

Matthew’s version of this sermon expands on this statement:

Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.” Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>b</sup> 6:47 **Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them.** When you examine the epistle of James, the half brother of Jesus, you quickly get the impression that this sermon—or at least its content—had a profound influence on James. James put it this way:

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. James 1:21-25

<sup>c</sup> 6:47 **I will show you whom he is like.** The word translated “I will show” is the same word John the Baptist used of the warning to *flee* the coming wrath. So here is another parable of Jesus recorded in Luke’s gospel. He is just getting started with these object lessons. This one is a warning.

<sup>d</sup> 6:48 **he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock.** Even a child who has built with blocks understands this principle. It is hard work to dig deep, but doing so is easier than the consequences of not doing so.

<sup>e</sup> 6:48 **when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.** We need not spend a lot of time trying to identify what the flood represents here. Anything from overwhelming life trials to storms of unbelief test the quality of your foundation. The point of the parable is to compare those who make a claim to faith and those who follow their Lord.

The storm does not come to destroy legitimate faith but to demonstrate that legitimate faith cannot be shaken. Look at Hebrews 12:26-27:

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.” This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

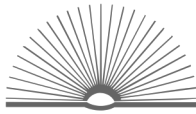
<sup>f</sup> 6:49 **the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation.** Matthew says that Jesus added the detail that the bare ground was sandy.

The Gospel of Luke  
Steven Svendsen, Sr.

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Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall. Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>a</sup> 6:49 **the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.** It does not take much of a demonstration to destroy a weak foundation. The “house” was left in great ruin.

<sup>b</sup> 6:46-49 Jesus calls us to do what He says. The great commission includes the command to teach disciples “to obey.” Your world will be rocked and the rocking will not demonstrate how great your life is but how great is what you build your life upon. In other words it is not the quality of your faith but the object of your faith that the storms reveal. Here is how that foundation shows up “above ground”:

1. You plan your work based on what pleases your Master rather than on what feels comfortable. It is almost always harder to take the easy way out. You reap what you sow.
2. Your core beliefs do not change based on circumstances. You do not ask for trials of your faith, but those trials end up bringing glory to the One who gave you that faith.

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