



How Strong is Your Foundation?

Matthew 7:25: (NASB) *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.*

Every Bible-believing Christian believes that they are building their life on the sure foundation of Christ. Jesus spoke about it - no, actually he warned about having such a belief without truly having the right foundation. He warned about the regret that would be experienced upon realizing that one's proposed Christianity was in fact only a pretense. The good news is that Jesus, along with his warning, provided all that we need to know about truly building on the right foundation. So...what do we need to know? Stay with us and let's find out!

First, let's compare and combine the two accounts:

Matthew 7:24-27: (NASB) *²⁴Therefore 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. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶Everyone 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. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.*

Luke 6:47-49: (NASB) *⁴⁷Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.*

One house is destined to stand and the other is destined to fall. Which one are we living in?



Observations:

- *Everyone who hears these words of mine* - referring back to what he had just taught in the previous chapters. We need to look back at the context.
- Hearing Jesus' words is only the beginning - acting on them is the important thing.
- To get to the firm foundation of rock you have to dig through the soil first. It takes effort and other things have to be moved out of the way.
- It is the combination of a firm foundation + a well-built house that repels the storm.



)))(**Christianity is a circus, Paul Washer, reformedvoices.blogspot.com**

- *Why is Christianity a circus? The Gospel doesn't have priority. It is a little thing! We have come to a point in Christianity in which we have toned down the attributes of God that we don't even know what they are, and we have so exalted man...*

When we look at Christianity, we do see the house built - but upon what foundation? Is it built on the solid words of Jesus?



Back to the beginning of the context: Who is Jesus addressing with these words? The disciples, but the multitudes are listening in. The words were meant for his truest followers.

Matthew 4:25: (NRSV) *And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. Matthew 5:1-2: (NRSV) ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:*

If you aren't a follower of Christ and you read the New Testament, it's as if you are reading someone else's mail! You are not looking at it in the proper context.

The foundation is Jesus and his teachings.



It is represented as the rock in this story:

Romans 9:33: (NASB) *Just as it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in him will not be disappointed.*

Are we listening to the words of Jesus, or are we trying to make those words fit what we would like to have to feel comfortable? We want to find the truest foundation.

So, what were these all important words of Jesus?

)))(**Wealth always gained in the Bible, Creflo Dollar, TV Evangelist**

- *All through the Bible wealth is acquired, wealth is gained. Now listen! Here's been the deal - when mine gonna come in? You ain't given the blessing nothing to work with!*

The "sayings" of Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount, called the Beatitudes (or Be-Attitudes!), is the beginning of what may be the most comprehensive set of teachings of Jesus recorded in Scripture, except for his final night with his disciples before his crucifixion. If we can carefully understand the import of Jesus here in Matthew 5-7 and John 13-17, we can grasp what it means to be a Christian.



Matthew 5:3-11: (NASB)

³*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (The humble.)*

⁴*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵*Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. (This is how to live.)*

⁶*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. (It is one thing to appreciate righteousness, but hungering and thirsting is when you can't go on without it.)*

⁷*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (If we are in a position where mercy is appropriate to give, we ought to give it. As we give it, we can receive it.)*

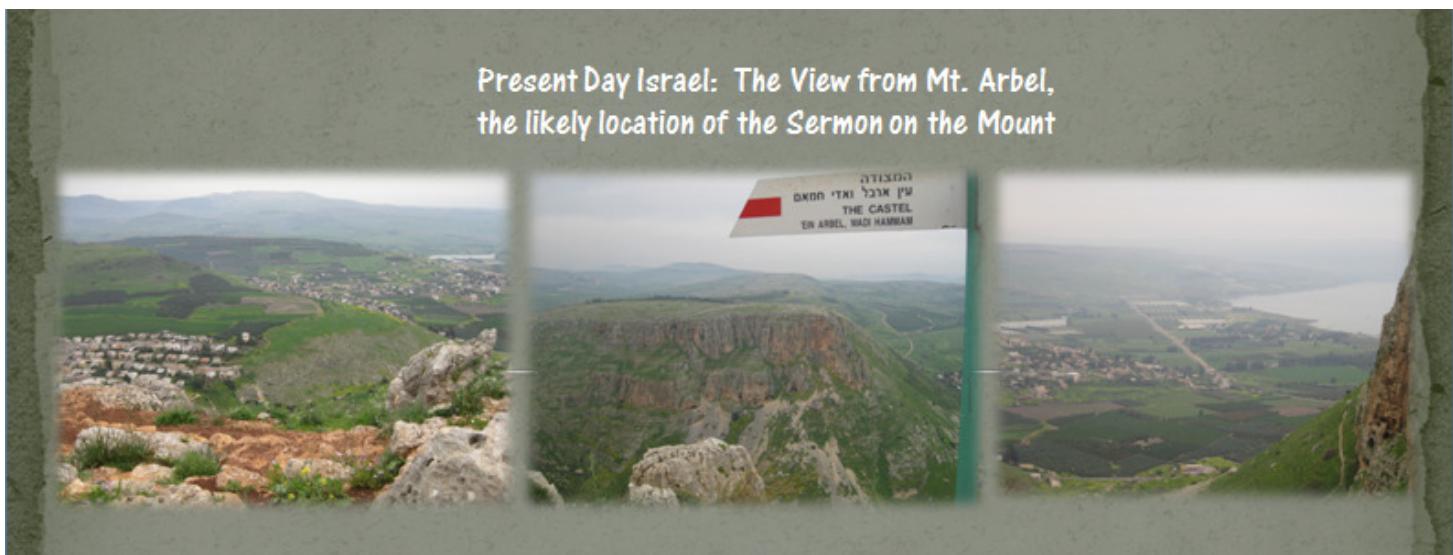
⁸*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (It doesn't say, Blessed are they who do everything just right! Our heart needs to be in the right place. It involves personal effort.)*

⁹*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

¹⁰*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (To be persecuted is to be pursued because someone doesn't like you because of righteousness.)*

¹¹*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Standing up for the Gospel will not always be popular, but even though you are met with resistance, you are blessed.)*

Present Day Israel: The View from Mt. Arbel,
the likely location of the Sermon on the Mount



These words set our minds to live in a Godly way. Are we living according to these words?

What is the most important thing...gaining personal wealth?? We challenge those brands of Christianity focused on "me" instead of "Thee!"

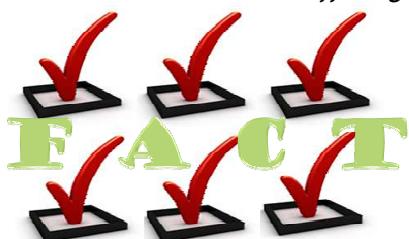


Matthew 5:13-16: (NASB) ¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

You are different from anybody else. Others should look to you and see inspiration of God through you! It is all about bringing praise, honor and glory to God our Father through Jesus our Lord. If people are glorifying you, there is a problem in the foundation.

Jesus focuses on us having brotherly concern before piety:

Matthew 5:23-24: (NASB) ²³Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.



Thus far, how many of Jesus' words are about "how to get" and how many are about "how to give?"

Love your enemies:

Matthew 5:43-48: (NASB) ⁴³You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Jesus expects more from us.

 **Jesus Temptations, John MacArthur on Joel Osteen, Truthsource.net**

- *Satan told Jesus, Eat! You need to be healthy and whole! Why would you let yourself be unpopular? Dive off the temple corner and everyone will be wowed! You will be the Messiah, the champion! Everyone will hail you! And by the way, look over the kingdoms of the world, I will give those to you, too.*
- *Why are these false teachers so successful? Because they are in cahoots with the Devil.*

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Psalms 127:1: Unless Jehovah builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.
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Are people that teach different versions of the Gospel really in cahoots with the Devil?



The account of Jesus' temptations was [Matthew 4](#) - shortly before his Sermon on the Mount. The next recorded event is that Sermon. He had just gone through putting Satan aside.

The art of Christian giving and generosity:

Matthew 6:1-4: (NASB) *¹Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. ²So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ³But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.*

Make sure the giving you do is for the sake of giving only, not to show people how generous you are. Giving needs to come from the heart in a quiet, sincere, God-driven way. It is not for recognition. The reason for the giving is most important and should not be for attention.

The art of Christian prayer:

Matthew 6:5-8: (NASB) *⁵When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. ⁷And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

Prayer is steeped in humility and praise for God. It is a conversation with the Lord. Jesus is giving a scathing review of those that stand on the corner and make a big fuss about it. That is their full reward. God is not pleased with that kind of prayer.

What is the most important thing? To be heard? To be seen? No, to be heard by God and God alone.

Store your treasure where your heart is - in heaven!!!

Matthew 6:19-21: (NASB) *¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

The treasure is your relationship with God and Jesus, not your earthly prosperity. This is a lot different from what many preachers tell us. Do we listen to Jesus or to someone who makes us feel good, but who speaks in words not exactly what Jesus taught?

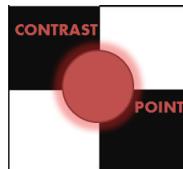


Explaining his gospel of prosperity, Creflo Dollar on Larry King

- *King: Don't you think most people would say that if you have a corporate jet, whether the church owns it or not, is basically anti - what you are teaching?*
- *Dollar: Not at all! We teach a gospel that simply says according to the Word, it is God's will for you to prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. We also believe that the Father takes pleasure in the prosperity of his children. So with the First Amendment still in operation, whether people*



agree with it or not, it is the freedom to exercise what we believe is the Word of God.



"We teach a gospel" ???

Is this the solid foundation Jesus talked about?

Galatians 1:6-9: (NASB) *⁶I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; ⁷which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! ⁹As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*

The Gospel the Apostle Paul preached was Jesus Christ, crucified. The words of Jesus were not about accumulation.

Don't worry about the things of this world - instead seek God first.

Matthew 6:31-34: (NASB) *³¹Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Does this mean we can sit back and do nothing? Of course not. We have to fulfill our responsibilities, but we aren't to be overly focused on "stuff."

What is the most important thing? Seek first the kingdom of heaven.

Do not judge in a manner that you do not want to be judged:

Matthew 7:1-5: (NASB) *¹Do not judge so that you will not be judged. ²For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. ³Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, and behold, the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

What is the most important thing? Seek first the kingdom of heaven.

Galatians 1:10: (NASB) *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

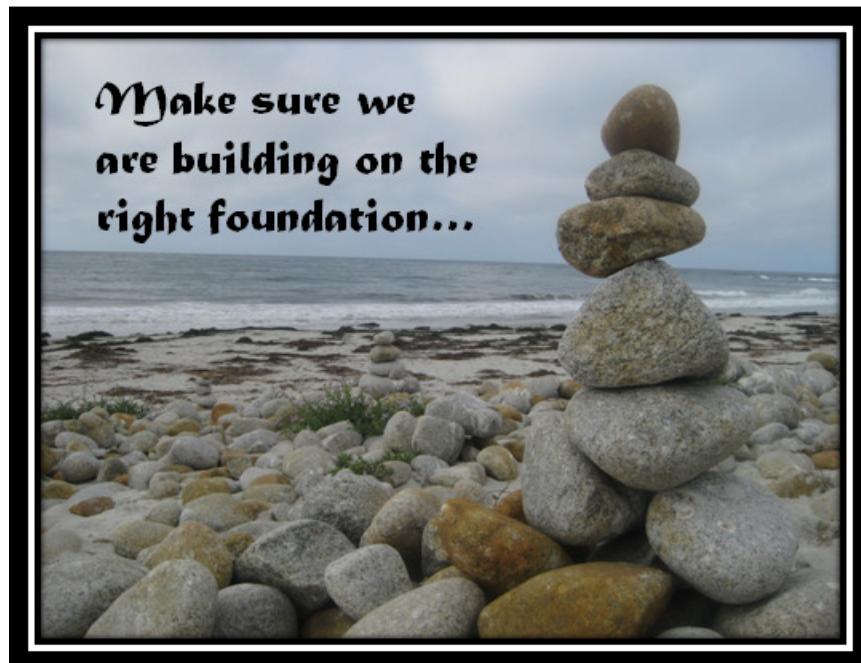
Jesus taught us to seek spirituality, not popularity.

Doesn't God want us to be happy? Doesn't God want us to succeed?

Ask of God who gives generously:

Matthew 7:7-11: (NASB) *⁷Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!*

Jesus here says to ask God because He wants to bless us! However, these are the simple necessities of life, needed for our well being. God does want us to be happy in our service of Him, but part of this is to be happy in self-denial. Jesus gave us that foundation long before these verses.



🔊) **The results of tithing as your faith, Eddie Long**

- I believe you will open the windows of heaven, rebuke the devourer and protect my stuff!!! I believe everything You said! God says, we're in Las Vegas now, because I want you to take a risk with Me. You have let money possess you that you don't trust me enough to give you more than you give me...*



James 4:1-3: (NASB) ¹*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?* ²*You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.* ³*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.*

James puts this in perspective. You don't receive because you are asking for things that are for your own desires and not your spiritual service to Him.

The Golden Rule:

🔊) **Matthew 7:12: (NRSV)** *In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*

We must be selfless and maintain the fruits of the spirit, not our wallets.



Take "the road less traveled" in your search for God:

Matthew 7:13-16: (NASB) *¹³Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?*

Matthew 7:21-23: (NASB) *²¹Not 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. ²²Many 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? ²³And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.*

This is part of the foundational teachings of Jesus. This comes right before Jesus speaks of the parable of building on rock instead of sand.

Was the rich young ruler promised 100 times his original wealth if he gave all to the poor?

 **The rich young ruler in Matthew 19, Creflo Dollar**

- *Dollar: (this account) was about loving God with your stuff. If you keep reading down a couple more scriptures, it says and he received a hundred fold of everything that he gave, everything that he sold.*

But wait! Is that what it really says? Um...not exactly...

Matthew 19:27-29: (NASB) *²⁷Then Peter said to him, Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us? ²⁸And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you, that you who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for my name's sake, will receive many times as much (Mark 10:30 adds "now in this present age"), and will inherit eternal life.*



Note that the disciples had no clue of any present riches promised - they followed Jesus for the sake of his teaching and not to gain anything.

- Who did Jesus tell the rich ruler to give his "stuff" to? THE POOR! Jesus did not say to give the money to him or his disciples so that he could distribute it for the ruler. He made it a matter between the man and his own conscience.
- Jesus did not promise the rich young man anything except eternal life.

Jesus was asking him to give up without getting. These preachers say, give it to me so that you can get it back.



Thus far, how many of Jesus' words are about "how to get" and how many are about "how to give?"

If we are concerned about "getting" in terms of our happiness in life, self-esteem, prospering in all aspects of our lives, a bigger car...we can easily get caught up in emotions. This isn't a Gospel of Getting. When we are focused on spiritual things...what more could we want?



Matthew 19:21-26: (NASB) ²¹Jesus said to him, If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. ²²But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. ²³And Jesus said to his disciples, Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. ²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, Then who can be saved? ²⁶And looking at them Jesus said to them, With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Note that Jesus wanted no part of his possessions. What's with the camel reference? The Eye of the Needle was a small gateway used in ancient cities during the night. Camels could pass through, unloaded, on their knees. It's a struggle, but it can be done.

The comparative lesson to us is amazing!

1 Timothy 6:6-9: (NASB) ⁶But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. ⁷For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

There is nothing inherently wrong with riches. But this is not what we are to focus on. We aren't supposed to give so that we can get more. Godliness is a means of great gain. THAT is wealth untold. Build your treasures in heaven.

Matthew 7:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.



Jesus finishes the teaching about the foundation and gives us so much to work with. How do we know we are following after the true Gospel of Christ? Read his words. It is a Gospel of spirituality and God-esteem.

*So how strong is your foundation...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!*



Well, we had to skip over parts of the narrative to fit our discussion into our two hour time slot. Here is "the rest of the story."

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by being of genuine faith:

Matthew 5:17-20: (NASB) ¹⁷*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.* ¹⁸*For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.* ¹⁹*Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰*For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by living to an even higher standard than the Law:

Matthew 5:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*You have heard that the ancients were told, You shall not commit murder and Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.* ²²*But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, You good-for-nothing, shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, You fool, shall be guilty enough to go into gehenna. (the fiery garbage dump outside the city as a symbol of utter destruction)*

It is not enough to not murder - don't even damage someone's reputation.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by living to an even higher standard than the Law:

Matthew 5:25-42: (NASB) ²⁵*Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.* ²⁶*Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.*

Be generous and merciful to others in matters of the Law.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by living to an even higher standard than the Law:

²⁷*You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery;* ²⁸*but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* ²⁹*If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.* ³⁰*If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.* ³¹*It was said, Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce;* ³²*but I say*



to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

It is not enough to not commit adultery - don't even look at a woman with desire and stay committed to your covenant of marriage!

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by living to an even higher standard than the Law:

³³*Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord. ³⁴But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.*

Have enough integrity to let your very word be your bond, rather than promising based on this or that.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by living to an even higher standard than the Law:

³⁸*You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. ³⁹But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. ⁴¹Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.*

It is not enough for you to merely exact justice as the Law allows - rather, show mercy, be willing to be vulnerable and even taken advantage of.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by teaching appropriate prayer:

Matthew 6:9-13: (NASB) ⁹Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by reminding us to emulate the Heavenly Father in matters of forgiveness:

Matthew 5:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by applying outward humility to our self denial before our Father so as NOT to draw attention to ourselves, but rather keep it a personal matter:

Matthew 5:16-18: (NASB) ¹⁶Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by reminding us to only be "seeing" righteousness - for what we "see" dictates who we become:

Matthew 6:22-23: (NASB) ²²The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!



Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by reminding us that to strive for earthly things is serving a second master - no need to do so, as the Father has promised to care for our needs - not our wants:

Matthew 6:24-30: (NASB) *²⁴No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? ²⁷And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!*

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by reminding us to keep that which is sacred, sacred:

Matthew 7:6: (NASB) *Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

Jesus focuses our building on the firm foundation by teaching us to observe the fruit of a life, whether it be our own life or the life of another:

Matthew 7:17-20: (NASB) *¹⁷So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, you will know them by their fruits.*

Matthew 7:28-29: (NASB) *²⁸When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

Now THAT'S what we call a FIRM FOUNDATION!!