

Living in the Grace We've Received

September 4, 2016—Parables of Jesus

Luke 6:46-49 — Build Your House Upon the Rock

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’ and don’t do what I say?

I’ll show what it’s like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and puts them into practice. It’s like a person building a house by digging deep and laying the foundation on bedrock. When the flood came, the rising water smashed against that house, but the water couldn’t shake the house because it was well built.

But those who don’t put into practice what they hear are like a person who built a house without a foundation. The floodwater smashed against it and it collapsed instantly. It was completely destroyed.”

“Jesus’ radical offer of new and abundant life is so all-embracing, and hence so all-demanding, that people try to find alternative ways. But they must be resisted, or the house will come down with a crash” (N.T. Wright).

“There is also great encouragement! The one who truly hears and puts into practice the teachings of Jesus has Jesus’ own promise that he will not be overcome in times of calamity. The onslaughts that come upon a person—whether they test one’s faith or relationship to God—will not prevail wherever a person is a hearer and doer of the teachings of Jesus” (A.J. Hultgren).

Next week: Luke 18:1-8

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Jesus told us to:

- Love our enemies.
- Do good to those who hate you.
- Bless those who curse you.
- Pray for those who abuse you.
- Give to everyone who begs from you and expect nothing in return.
- Be merciful.
- Do not pass judgment on your neighbor...

We can't do it apart from close relationship with Jesus. But with Him living His life within us, we're learning to act according to the great grace we've received. One moment, one neighbor and one conversation—at a time.

"All glory to God—Who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!

Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

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