

What Are You Made Of?

Luke 6:46-49; James 1:2-5, 1:19-25; Ps.73:1-5, 21-25

It is days like today that have all of us shaking our heads and wondering what is really going on. I think to a person we all come away from this moment asking the question, "Where is the good in all this?" and the truth of the matter is I don't begin to know how to answer that question. However, what I do have experience with more than I care to explain is the way God uses everything in our lives to teach us about his ways.

You and I are hardly ever in control of what happens to us but we can have an impact on how we deal with what happens to us.

In 2003, fire ravaged the mountains of San Bernardino and made its way into the foothill communities that dot the landscape of the densely populated terrain. In a moment, homes that had been a part of this established community for many years were gone and all that was left to remind us that dwellings once existed there were a checkered board pattern of cement slabs and chimney's.

This same scene could be witnessed in the Southeast Region of the country as the fury of hurricanes were shown by local television stations. Again, cement slabs and chimney's were all that remained of people's lives.

And who can forget when the earth shook violently in Northridge Ca; once again, when all the rubble was finally removed what was left were chimneys and slabs.

These images are a strong reminder of what Jesus must have been referring to when he announced the question, "Why do you keep calling me "Lord, Lord" when you don't do what I say? Jesus goes on to describe a man who hears His word and does His word as a "wise man." He also takes time to describe a man who only hears His word but does not take action to do it as a "foolish man." At the end of the day, we should expect that whatever devastation or unforeseen disaster come our way our foundation and structure is intact because we not only hear what God says but we have the audacity to believe it.

I. Why would anyone build a house without a foundation?

- A. To save time and money
- B. To avoid the hard work of preparing the stone
- C. Because waterfront scenery is more attractive
- D. They want to join their friends who have already settled in sandy areas.
- E. Maybe they haven't heard about the violent storms coming.
- F. They don't think disaster can happen to them.

II. Why should people build a house with a foundation?

- A. To avoid short-sightedness
- B. To insure the best possible outcome regardless the situation
- C. To know that the contents (valuables) in the house are protected
- D. It raises our level of confidence

III. All foundations are not the same

- A. With all foundations there will be some damage to the structure
- B. With all foundations, there is a limit to how long it holds up.
- C. Not all foundations are natural
- D. Therefore not all foundations have human outcomes