
Built on the Love of God (A Foundation Built For The Storms of Life)

Activating First Love

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Sermon: Activating First Love: Built on the Love of God (A Foundation Built For The Storms of Life)

Lesson Text

Matthew 7:24–27 (KJV)²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 16:15–19 (KJV)¹⁵ He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Introduction

So far in looking for love that is active vs. passive, we learned about “Perfected Love” and “Covering Love.” Today, we will look at “Building Love!”

Passive Love is imperfect, but active love is perfected by God. Passive love is exposed, but active love covers a multitude of sins. Passive love fails during the storms of life, but Active love builds on a foundation that stands during these storms.

In our first lesson text we see two houses being built. They both look good and provide shelter. They both are built at a time conducive for construction – that is, good conditions, calm weather, no rain or floods. The only difference being the foundation they are built.

This is also how love works. They are built at times that are conducive for love. But the question is are they built for the storms that are to come later. Are they waterproof from the rains, strong enough for the winds, and have a foundation for the floods.

Just like the house that falls, our love can fall if not built in the right place, in preparation for the right storms, and built on the right foundations.

Series and Sermon: Activating First Love: Built on the Love of God (A Foundation Built For The Storms of Life)

(Love Built on the Revelation, Preparation, Protection)

I. Love Built On Revelation (The Direction Of God)

Matthew 7: ²⁴ **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:**

The first key to building on love is getting direction.

The “sayings of mine” represents the Word of God which gives us direction.

Psalms 119: ¹³³ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

When it comes to Love, many people struggle with direction – direction of who to love, direction on how to love, direction on when, where, and even why to love.

Proverbs 29: ¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Vision here represents divine direction, guidance, and revelation. And without it, people run wild, stumble and fall, and perish. It is literally an inability to see what God is doing.

Without the vision, our love can fail, run wild, stumble, and perish

Love built on the Word of God Directs us.

Matthew 16: ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

God’s love gives us revelation.

Psalms 37: ²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

II. Love Built On Preparation (The Strength Of God)

Matthew 7: ²⁴ **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, *I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:***

The next key to building on love is getting prepared.

At the time of the construction of our relationships, the weather is nice, calm, and sunny. But did we build them in preparation for the rain, floods, and storms of life.

Even when we had the vision and direction to get the house built, did we have the knowledge to build it based on the intensity of the storms to come.

When relationships fail, people think that it’s because they made a bad selection. But in reality, they simply made bad preparations.

Matthew 7: ²⁶ **And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

Love built on the Strength of God Prepares us.

God’s love gives us strength before the storm comes.

Psalm 46: ¹ God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

III. Love Built On Protection (The Foundation Of God)

Matthew 7:²⁵ **And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

The final key to building on Love is getting protection.

The storms of life come to break us, but the Love of God protects us.

1 Peter 5: ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

John 10: ¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Psalm 34: ¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Love built on the Foundation of God Protects Us.

Matthew 16: ¹⁸ **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

God's Love keeps us when life tries to break us.

2 Timothy 2: ¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Luke 10: ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Isaiah 54: ¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

“I was built for this – built for the storms, built for rain, built for the winds, built for the floods, built for the weapons, built for the attacks, built for the afflictions, built for the struggle, built for the pain!”

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Built on the Love of God (A Foundation Built For The Storms of Life))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 7:24–27, Matthew 16:15–19

Sermon Outline

- I. Love Built On Revelation (The Direction Of God)**
- II. Love Built On Preparation (The Strength Of God)**
- III. Love Built On Protection (The Foundation Of God)**

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Are you planning any vacations this summer, or do you prefer a “staycation?”
2. Did you spend the Memorial Day three-day weekend being highly productive with projects, or doing absolutely nothing?

II. Into The Bible

1. In Matthew 7:24-27, what similarities and differences do you observe between the wise builder and the foolish builder, their foundation, and the outcome of the storm?
2. In Matthew 16:15-19, what does Peter confess about Jesus, and what does Jesus say He will build upon “this rock”?

II. Life Application

1. Use scripture to make a plan for how you will respond in love the next time your friend, fellow church member, family member, coworker or neighbor says something that offends you.
2. What do you know about the Lord that helps you withstand hard times?