

“Need the Name of a Good Contractor?”

Text: Luke 6:46-48

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Skit!

The skit begs the question, “Need the Name of a Good Contractor?” Contractor means “someone (a person or firm) who contracts to build things.”

- Our home and interviewing possible contractors (reputation, referrals, pictures of completed work, cost)
- Hiring a contractor - Trusting them to be an authority in what they do.
- Good contractors and bad contractors

How does this relate to our spiritual journey with God? I want us to examine this question as we continue our series through the Gospel of Luke which I’m calling “Journey to Justice”. Remember, justice for the Christian means to do what is morally right according to the Word of God, the Bible.

- How do we know what is morally right to do?
- Who is our authority on what is just or morally right?
- And, what is the name of a good contractor for life?

Let’s listen to what Luke’s Gospel has to say about this from the life of Jesus.

Read Luke 6:46-49 (page 68 in pew Bible) **& PRAY!**

Jesus’ parable of the two builders comes at the end of one of Jesus’ sermons to His disciples and a large crowd of people. This is Jesus’ fourth parable in His sermon and it concludes His message to the people. I want us to consider three principles from Jesus’ parable of the two builders.

I. Jesus is the authority for right living.

- A. Luke 6:46 *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”*
The word Lord is *Kyrios* in the Greek and it means having power, authority over. The power spoken of is a power of control. Who do you trust to have power, authority and control over your life?
- B. Read Matthew 28:18, Jesus says *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* What does this mean? Read in unison Colossians 1:15-17 from the Message Bible on Power Point: *“We look at this Son (Jesus) and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank of angels—everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together*

right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, He organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.”

1. Jesus is supreme over creation (15-17). Jesus is God, the Creator in whom we find our purpose. He is Lord.
 2. Jesus says, *“Follow me...”* Following Jesus is to do what He says because of who He is. He is our creator and knows how we ought to live our lives.
- C. Story of calling of Peter in Luke 5
1. Are you willing to do what Jesus tells you to do because He says so?
 2. James 1:22 *“Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.”*
- D. Two types of Christians:
1. Believer – Those who have received Jesus Christ into their hearts and have eternal life. Hearers and doers alike.
 2. Disciples – Mature believers are doing what Christ tells them to do. Disciples are learners and doers. Disciples aren’t born, they’re made.
 Luke 9:23 – Jesus says, *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.”*
 - What is involved in “cross bearing”? Whatever it takes to give Jesus first place in your life.
- E. Are you a believer or growing as a disciple of Jesus? What next step is God asking you to take to become a disciple?
1. Recommit your life to Jesus and being His disciple.
 2. Join a Life Group to study God’s word and learn how to live as a disciple.

Jesus’ question, *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you?”* is a profound question that contrasts right confession and true discipleship.

1. Right confession – “Jesus is Lord” was an early Christian confession.
 - Confession at baptism or public confession of faith.
2. True discipleship – Leads us to the parable of the two builders which contrasts those who hear and act and those who hear but do not act.

II. We have a choice to make...

- A. Luke 6:47 *“As for those who come to me and hear my words and put them into practice, I will show you what they are like.”* Three key participles are found in this sentence: the one who comes, hears, and does. We all have a choice to make—will I come to Jesus, hear Him and do what he says? Let’s take a closer look at these to help us understand how to build our lives on Jesus.
- B. The ones who come to Jesus – various kinds of people.
1. Luke 7:7 – The centurion sends Jewish leaders to Jesus for the healing of his servant.
 2. Luke 8:35 – The non-Jewish people came to Jesus to see what had happened with the pigs drowning in the lake.

3. In both instances an obedient response is possible. The centurion obeys Jesus and the people don't; they ask Jesus to leave.
 4. Who are you going to with your questions, hurts and brokenness? Jesus tells us in Matthew 11, *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."*
 5. We have a choice, coming to Jesus or something else.
- C. Hearing, more specifically hearing the word of God, is a recurring theme in Luke.
1. Luke 5:1 – *"the people crowded around Jesus and listened to the word of God."*
 2. Luke 10:39 – Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening to what He said.
 3. Jesus starts his sermon in Luke 6:18 with hearing the word of God and closes it with hearing the word of God.
 4. Who are you listening to in your life? Our culture, media, relationships, experiences or your own distorted tapes from the past in your head or Jesus. One of the ways you can hear the word of God is through the preaching of God's word on Sunday mornings. Recommit yourselves to attending our worship services each Sunday. You have a choice to make.
- D. Doing the word of God.
1. Luke 8:21 – Jesus says that his mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.
 2. Luke 11:28 – Jesus responds to a woman who pronounces a blessing on Jesus' mother, Jesus answers, *"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey (do) it!"*
 3. Read your Bible asking the question, "What is it you want me to do, Lord?" Then, do it.
 4. Everyday we make choices in our lives. Are you choosing to put Jesus' teachings into practice in your life?
- E. Come, hear and do are keys to building our lives on the right foundation: Jesus.
1. The hand illustration for getting a handle on God's word.

III. Get Your Piece of the Rock!

- A. Jesus tells two vivid stories drawn from everyday life to illustrate His point—the construction of houses.
- B. The wise builder *"dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock"* (6:48). Dig deep and lay the foundation of your life on the Word of God. Keep digging until you get in touch with the revelation of God in the person of Jesus and then build your life upon that Rock.
- C. How do you put your life back together after a storm? I have talked to many people who have said that faith in God was the only thing that gave them the strength to keep going, renew their hope and make a new beginning. We do not get to choose whether we will face severe storms in life; we only get to choose the foundation on which we will stand against the storms.

1. Over 7,000 promises of God in the Bible that you can stand on and take to the bank. One of my favorites in 1 Peter 5:10, *“And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*
 2. Characters in the Bible – Joseph (perseverance), Abraham (faith), Mark (second chances)
 3. Books of the Bible – Suffering (Psalms)
- D. Jesus tells us in this parable, the alternative choice is disastrous. Hear the words of life, and pay no attention to Jesus, and you will be like the man who built on no foundation. The house probably looked beautiful. It was the envy of all his neighbors, but he built it without a solid foundation. The storms came; the house collapsed and was destroyed.

Jesus gives us a vision of life as it ought to be and the importance of responding to Him and His teachings to live out that life. It is only in a relationship with Jesus that we receive power to live as His followers.

Do you need a good contractor for your life? Come to Jesus and let Him build it for you.

PRAY!

Most loving God, our heavenly Father, you are our Rock and sure Foundation. Jesus challenges us today to live our lives as his followers by coming to him, hearing His word and putting them into practice. He calls us to build our lives deep on the foundation of rock, His words. Yet, we live in a culture that screams for us to do the opposite—to build our lives on ground without a foundation. The storms we face in life can be overwhelming. Forgive us when we do not stand on the Rock, Jesus Christ our Lord and His word. Empower each one of us to be faithful disciples who build our lives on Jesus who is our model on how to live life. Help us to be doers of the word and not just hearers. In Jesus’ name. Amen.