

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

Building A Solid Foundation

Life is a wonderful gift from God, but life alone is not enough; we must have a solid foundation! Jesus makes the following statements in Matthew 7:24-27, (24) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. (25) Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. (26) But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. (27) When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."(NLT). My brothers and sisters, Jesus is asking "how solid is our foundation"?

In His longest recorded sermon, Jesus began by describing the traits (Matthew 5:3-10) He was looking for in His followers. He said that God blesses those who live out those traits. Each beatitude is an almost direct contradiction of society's typical way of life. Jesus even points out that a serious effort to develop these traits is bound to create opposition. The best example of the beatitudes is found in Jesus Himself. If our goal is to become like Him, applying the beatitudes will challenge the way we live each day.

The Beatitudes

Realize the need for God (Matt. 5:3) ; Mourn (Matt. 5:4) ; Humble (Matt. 5:5) ; Hunger & Thirst for Justice (Matt. 5:6) ; Merciful (Matt. 5:7) ; Pure Hearts (Matt. 5:8) ; Work for Peace (Matt. 5:9) ; Persecution (Matt. 5:10).

Jesus instructs us that the beatitudes is what you must have to build on a solid foundation. Again look at Matthew 7:24, Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. First, we must respect, understand who is talking to us. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that total reverence to God is the key to a solid foundation. Why is this so important? Well besides God telling us it is, we must recognize that there are many who are deceived and they believe what they are doing or the way they are living is approved by God. Let me give you a brief description. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, (21) "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. (22) On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' (23) But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'(NLT).

Jesus said these people prophesied, cast out demons and performed many miracles in His name. So what is the problem? Some self professed athletes can "talk" a great game, however, that tells you nothing about their athletic skills. Not everyone who talks about heaven belongs to God's kingdom. Jesus is more concerned about our walk than our talk. He wants us to do right, not just say the right words! What you do cannot be separated from what you believe. Jesus will expose those who sound religious but have no personal relationship with Him.

Did you know that there are people who believe that as long as I'm a good person I am in the kingdom? Did you know that there are people who believe as long as they go to church, give money and/or pay their tithes they are in the kingdom? Did you know that there are people who care about their title only, in the church? Did you know that they are about their own glory and not our Father's glory? The list goes on and on! What is in the dark will come out in the light. At the end Jesus will say "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws." (NLT)

There is nothing to be shocked about for it is written in God's word. Even with many people reading this meditation, they will proceed to building their own foundation. The disciples were the closest associates with Jesus and I'm sure this made them feel important, proud and possessive. Being with Jesus gave them not only prestige but also opportunity for receiving money and power. Jesus warned the disciples about the temptations they would face as His associates. He told them not to expect fame and fortune, but mourning, hunger and persecution. Nevertheless, Jesus assured the disciples just as He assures us today that we will be rewarded. If we don't allow God to build that solid foundation in our lives, we will find ourselves using God's message only to promote our personal interests.

God has blessed you with the gift of life. Don't just accept the gift! Don't just open the gift! Recognize who gave it to you and be blessed by it. Don't be afraid. If God is for you, who can be against you? Allow Him **NOW** to build that solid foundation in your life.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 9:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK : Be kinder than necessary because everyone.

