

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus

Title: The Firm Foundation

Text: Luke 6:46-49

Speaker: Steve Berg

Date: March 24, 2019



WARM-UP



The picture that goes with the Life Challenge this week is of this wonderful small house balanced on top of a rock in the Drina River in Serbia. This little house has been on this rock in the river for over 45 years. In 1969 a group of teenage boys spent much of the summer swimming in the river and they would haul themselves out on this rock to rest and sunbathe and warm up. But while it was a peaceful place, it wasn't that comfortable. So they used the wood from a nearby abandoned shed to build a platform on the rock. Then the next year they floated and kayaked wood and building materials down the river to build the house. They still use the house today for holidays, time with friends and to just get away from it all.

The rock must be solid and the house well-built because while it may look idyllic in these pictures the house has withstood storms and floods. It has been battered by the torrents and the debris that is hurled down with the flood fueled currents. Yet, the house on the rock has stood firm, sometimes just by the skin of its teeth. It is a great illustration of the two builders in Jesus' memorable parable. As you begin the discussion reflect together on Jesus' point: It is as foolish and dangerous to hear the teaching of Jesus without obeying it as it is to build a house with a poor foundation. Or stated positively: The solid foundation for life is built by hearing Jesus teaching and obeying Him.

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DISCUSSION

1. Jesus asks the forceful question that reveals the gap between our lips and our lives - between saying and doing - between a verbal confession and a moral obedience. What would you say to the person who says, "I have accepted Jesus as my Savior, but I don't understand how I can make Jesus my Lord?"
2. Why must all obedience begin on the heart (or thought) level? Does this mean that we should not obey outwardly if our heart is not in it? How can we become obedient from the heart?
3. The solid foundation for life is built by hearing Jesus teaching and obeying Him. Practically what does that look like for you?
4. What are the examples of "sinking sand" that we tend to build our lives on and why?
5. Can tell the story of someone that you knew was going through a "life storm" and they were unshaken because they had built their life on Christ the rock?
6. In the illustration Jesus gives, both houses still experience the storm. How can you support someone who is going through a storm right now?

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)