

Luke 6:46-49 CSB

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?

[47] I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them:

[48] He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn't shake it, because it was well built.

[49] But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The river crashed against it, and immediately it collapsed. And the destruction of that house was great."

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
(James 1:22)

The Sermon on the Plain ends with a clear warning from Jesus to put his words into action. Jesus was not content with letting his audience ponder his profound thoughts. His teaching is not meant for academic discussion and debate. Instead Christians should build their entire lives around his teachings, applying them to every facet of life. If they don't, they will not be able to withstand the pressures and temptations of this world and will be swept away to their destruction. Jesus calls believers to take the time they have now —before the floodwaters come —to reevaluate the way they live in light of his teachings.

PRESS
FORWARD
JANUARY SERMON SERIES

1.

HEAR JESUS' WORD WITH INTENTION

 **COMMUNITY**
BAPTIST CHURCH **EQUIPPING FOR LIFE**

1. More than Lip Service

The first challenge Jesus issues is directed at those who use His name but fail to submit to His authority. If we want to press forward, our profession of faith must be matched by our obedience. Hearing God's Word is not a passive activity; it is an intentional choice to lean in, pay attention, and prepare our hearts to receive.

2. Attentive Ears Lead to Active Faith

The starting place for forward movement in the Kingdom is truly listening—attentively, reverently, and with a desire to be transformed. Merely calling Jesus "Lord" without heeding His instructions leads nowhere. When we listen with the goal of transformation, we position ourselves under His guidance and open ourselves up to the power of His truth.

3. Application

- Set aside daily time to read and meditate on Scripture.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's help to stay focused and responsive as you listen to sermons or study God's Word.
- Share what you've learned with others, fostering a community where the Word is heard and applied.

DIG DEEP TO FIND THE ROCK

1. Dig Deep to Find the Rock

The man in Jesus' parable doesn't build hastily; he digs deep before laying the foundation on rock. Likewise, advancing in God's Kingdom requires that we do the deep work of obedience. It means letting Scripture refine us, pruning away what is not of God, and ensuring our character aligns with Jesus' teachings.

2. Obedience as the Bedrock

A disciple's life that endures storms is not built on shifting sands of human philosophies or personal convenience. It's built on the unchanging Word of God. Obedience to Christ shapes the convictions and the conduct of a believer, anchoring us when trials come.

3. Application

- Identify areas where you feel God is prompting you to step out in obedience (forgiveness, generosity, serving).
- Examine any "shifting sands" of personal preference or worldly thinking you might be building upon; repent and refocus on the unchanging truth of the Gospel.
- Seek counsel or mentorship to help you stay accountable in areas of growth and obedience.

STAND FIRM IN ADVERSITY

1. Storms as Opportunities for Growth

Jesus' parable assures us that storms will come. Adversity is part of life. But when our foundation is secure in Christ, those storms will not derail us; instead, they become opportunities for our faith to mature and for God's power to be displayed.

2. Stability Enables Forward Motion

A house with a firm foundation can remain standing against the fiercest storms—allowing those inside to regroup, refocus, and move forward. In the same way, a believer who stands firm in faith can continue pressing on in God's purposes, unshaken by trials.

3. Application

- In the face of trials, declare God's promises over your life—remind yourself of His faithfulness.
- Surround yourself with believers who will pray for you and encourage you to endure.
- Maintain a spirit of expectation that God will bring good out of every challenging situation, strengthening you for the journey ahead.

Let us determine, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be doers of the Word. As we faithfully build upon the rock of Christ, we will find ourselves equipped and empowered to move forward—even through life's fiercest storms. May our hearts stay aligned with Jesus, so that when the torrents strike, we remain unshaken—pressing on, to the glory of God.