

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2006

Cornerstone – Building for God’s Kingdom

Bible Study #1

A Basic Building Block

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:11

Bible Study Text: Matthew 7:24-27

Object: To help boys understand they are builders of their own lives and the wise person builds his life on Jesus.

For days the rains had soaked the hillsides of Southern California. Residents of the small town of La Conchita did not seem to be worried that anything might be wrong. They should have been. In 1995 a mudslide almost buried their town with more than 600,000 tons of sand and mud. On this Tuesday, January 11, 2005, however, there was no indication there was anything amiss. Just before 1:30 in the afternoon, a resident stepped outside his door and heard something that sounded like a “pop.”

“I looked up,” he said, “and I saw the entire mountainside just come down and race through part of our little town here.”

A video of the mudslide showed a large portion of a towering bluff break off and then rumble down the hill toward the town, carrying trees, power lines and thick mud into one of the homes.

Another resident said, “We had no warning. We had no warning whatsoever.”

Perhaps you have seen on television the pictures of houses crumbling to pieces as the ground beneath them is carried away by flood waters or a mudslide. When you see pictures you have to wonder, “Why do people build houses in unsafe places, where there is not a secure foundation?” Is it because they did not consider the danger? Did they think it would never happen to them?

Jesus told a story about a wise builder and a foolish builder. The wise builder built his house on a strong, solid foundation. Jesus said, “The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” But the foolish man built his house on sand. “The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Jesus told this story to teach us how important it is that we should build our lives wisely.

1. You must have a plan: Building a life is like building a house. You have to have a plan and follow it. God gives us a plan for building our lives. That plan is found in God's word, the Bible. If we follow what the Bible teaches us we can build a strong life that will last for all eternity. Listen to what Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."
2. You must start with the right foundation: Not only must you have a plan and follow it, you have to start with a strong foundation. Our memory verse today says, "for no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." That means you can not build your life on any other foundation than Jesus if you want to be able to stand any test or any hardship that may come.

Building your life on Jesus means; "Accepting Him as Savior and following Him in baptism." It means learning His teachings from the Bible and talking with Him in prayer. It means living a life that is pleasing to Him and telling others about Him. And finally it means having eternal life in heaven.

The reason we see so many people today whose lives seem to be falling apart is that they did not start with Jesus as the foundation. It is the wise person who begins with God's plan for their lives and who start with the right foundation – Jesus!

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever seen pictures of a flood or Mudslide? Tell what you remember. Did you see whole houses being carried away or destroyed?
2. What does it mean to say that we must "build our lives?" Doesn't life just happen? Tell some ways you can help build your life for eternity.
3. Who else is involved in building your life? What about your parents, your teachers, your pastor, your RA leaders?
4. What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the foundation for us to build our lives on?
5. What other foundations do people sometimes try to use to build their lives on? Why can these never be successful?
6. What are you building your life on?

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