

Faith and Foundation 7/10/16

By Eric Forrest and Christian Wyse

Hello, and good morning. There have been many sermons that I have tried to listen to but because they were so long, I could not keep my focus and would lose track of where they were. So because of this, Christian and I have decided to take action and diversify from the normal long and boring and split today's message into two, separate, smaller, not so boring sermons. But, enough of that, let's continue on.

Today's reading talks about two separate builders who each built their houses the ways that they thought to be best; one foolish who built his house on sand and one wise who built his house on rocks. When the rain came and the rivers flooded, the wise man's house stood while the foolish man's house was swept away.

In this world there are many who are like the foolish man. They try to build their lives on a flimsy foundation and when a strong opposition comes to them they are too weak to withstand it and crumble because there is no faith or support to be there for them when they need it most. Although it is very difficult to create such a strong foundation that can be there for you whenever you need it to.

Throughout my life I have found that there are many who say that they will be this foundation and will leave when there is the first sight of clouds. But, there is one place that has always held through clear skies while still being there through the storm with high winds and hail. Whether it be in Buffalo or Hartford, that place is the Church. Without question or judgement at a moment's notice I am always able to receive full support from anyone while I am willing to do the same for them whenever they need it.

What has surprised me though is that even when there is a separation of about 359 days and several states, there is the same amount of support coming from both Buffalo and Hartford. Some of the people that have given me the most support have only known me for a few weeks of my life throughout several years. It amazes me to think that about this because it means that there are truly awesome and caring people in this world that will do anything for people they have either known for a short time or even their whole lives. But this feat allows me to know a lot about them; that they have had the same kind of good hearted people that gave them the foundation to live their life that they now give to us. Not only is support given but, they give us a mission to do as they do and unquestionably go out and support those who truly need it in order to exponentially grow this world into a better place.

This mixture of both a foundation and a mission is what gives us our faith, because faith is not how well or how much of the bible that you know but, the support you both give and receive in order to do what is right. So maybe, just maybe with our faith we can change the world for the better.

Faith, it's something that holds people through thick and thin. It's what helps people through tough times, the good and the bad. Like the man who built his house on the rocks, someone is pursuing life staying strong and holding onto their faith. While someone who strays from their faith is like the man who builds his house on the sand. It all starts with your foundation. If you grow with a belief and stay with it, then you are more stable than one that does not. However if you build yourself around falsehoods or ever-changing beliefs then stability is but a dream.

An example of a stable foundation is everyone in this room. I've been coming to Maine now for four years. When I started coming here I had very little belief in church and in God. However over the course of these few years my faith has grown exponentially for I have seen God in everyone here. They have shown me that no matter where I go or what happens I will always have a family right here in Maine and in Westminster, whether it's in the church or not. I've grown with many of my church members in the four years of Maine, along with mission trips to Rochester and Washington D.C. and right here with my Westminster family and Hartford family. We've grown up together going through the journey of faith. The foundation laid before Eric and me has helped us grow into the men we are today. Thus the stable foundation I found is right here. My home away from home. However everyone has to find their own foundation to build their house on.

So now I challenge you to go off and take chances, jump at opportunity and to find the foundation that suits you. A foundation that you can live life following God. A life in which one can pursue happiness within one's faith. In the lord's name we pray. Amen.