



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 38

Lesson Title: Build Your House on the Rock

Take Home Point: Build your life on doing what God wants.

Warm-Up:

An unfortunate consequence of our culture of self-reliance is thinking it is unnecessary to follow instructions because we have a better idea. Some people don't even read instructions, much less follow them. How many "simple" jobs are made more difficult because it was easier just to get started right away with a saw or wrench? How many times are people late or get completely lost because it was too much trouble to get out the map or read it? How many flops are created in the kitchen because the cook didn't carefully read and follow the recipe? How many people are disqualified from contests or even jobs because they didn't follow the application directions? How often is the Bible misinterpreted or misrepresented by people who only read the parts they were familiar with or were easy to understand? Have any of these ever happened to you?

Read: Luke 6:46-49

Observation (What happened?):

What were the listeners of Jesus doing that bothered him so much? What were they not doing?

What happens to those who build on anything other than the words of Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What are some examples of "foundations" that people build on other than God's word?

What did Jesus indicate would come to the builders of both houses in his story?

Insight:

Why do we find it difficult to obey instructions we are given? Things like road detours, test instructions, directions for assembly, work processes – these are generally provided to help us succeed in what we are attempting to do. Usually we recognize the value of directions and are willing to comply. So when we don't, why not? Sometimes because we think we have a better way, or we don't want to take the time to comprehend and go by the instructions given. But to be honest, when it comes to God's instructions, sometimes it's just because we don't know what they are! King David understood the importance of knowing God's word and obeying it. Read Psalm 19 to get an idea of just how much he wanted this. He recognized that it is not enough to read and know what God wanted; he knew he needed to follow it. We need to pray and live in the same way. Then we can say as David did in Psalm 19:14, *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."* (NIV)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you doing to know God's word and be able to apply it on a daily basis?

Name one area of your life to which you can apply God's word this week.

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