

Being Wise Builders



"According to the grace of God which was given to me,
a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is
building upon it. But let each man be careful how he
builds upon it."

I Corinthians 3:10

**ARE YOU BEING A WISE OR
FOOLISH BUILDER?**

Rev. Dr. James Paul Humphries

Rev. Dr. Lahtaw, Zau Sam

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Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editor: Dominique Kozarchuk

Copy-editor: Gilbert Demers

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Leadership Series
Book 10

BEING WISE BUILDERS

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BEING WISE BUILDERS

PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

BEING WISE BUILDERS

INTRODUCTION:

It seems today that wherever one goes someone is building something. It seems to be the law of nature that we either need to build or repair something that we use or live in. The thing that we sometimes forget is that we are all builders in one way or another. All peoples are either a builder or a maintainer. Mankind has been created with a body, (our physical part), soul (our mind and emotion) and spirit (our heart). We often do not realize that not only have we built things in the past but we are also building in our lives today and we need to see that those things which we have already built will affect our tomorrows.

The man, Jesus was a great teacher and one thing He did was to help people to build their lives as a person (body, soul and spirit). One of His ways of teaching was through the use of parables. Parables are known to be an earthly truth that when studied contains a heavenly meaning also. One of Christ's purposes for coming to the earth was to shed more light on who His Father is and to get people to understand more about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus came to give teaching to all those who would listen. Truth that often had various levels of meaning. A truth that would be passed on from one generation to many others to come. Principles that would affect the body (physical), soul (mind) and the spirit (heart) all aspects of the whole man.

One of these parables was given to us by Jesus on how we should be "Wise Builders". It is recorded for us in the book of Matthew and in the book of Luke.

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“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶“Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷“The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷“Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹“But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.” Luke 6:46-49

The context of this teaching was given to the hearers in a broader picture of teaching. Jesus was telling them about how they should not judge one another. Plus when they pray they need to be people who are willing to ask, to seek and to keep knocking before the throne of God. He taught them that the way to God was not broad but narrow. Many people travel the broad way but the true way was narrow, were few choose to go. Finally He tells them that a true tree that belongs to Christ will bear fruit that will bring honour and glory to God.

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For our teaching on being a "Wise Builder" there are seven important words that will help us to understand this parable that Christ gave to the disciple and others who were listening.

Wise: intelligent, astute, clever, prudent, sensible.

Builder: designer, draughtsman, planner, engineer.

Foundation: base, basic groundwork, underpinning.

Practice: rehearsal, exercise, preparation, training, run through.

Know: be acquainted with, be familiar with, identify, recognize, discern, distinguish, see, tell, understand, be aware of, comprehend, grasp, experience.

House: home, residence, dwelling, abode, accommodation, shelter, family.

Foolish: stupid, silly, idiotic, unwise, thoughtless, irrational.

We can also see from the Luke account that this "wise builder" was in response to why people call Him "Lord Lord" and then do not do what He says to them to do. Jesus wanted to show that if you call Him "Lord Lord" you are saying that He is your teacher and if this is so, why then are they not building according to His ways and truths.

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Jesus was questioning the way they have been laying their foundation and what kind of a house or home have they been erecting for them and their family to live in.

When one studies this parable we can see that there are at least four truths that we can learn about when it comes to being a **"Wise Builder"**.

First, A "Wise Builder" knows how to build.

We need to learn that he is a person who hears. He takes time to listen and to learn from others, whether through study or on the job training. There are no short cuts to learning and it is no different when it comes to being a wise builder. Even if you are gifted there is always more to learn. Learning about a trade or about your spiritual gifts or just how to live out your everyday life. It will take time and the learning process should never end until your life comes to an end.

The things we can hear can come from people, but they can come from reading and studying about a given topic. What we take in is often what we will build our life and the lives of our family on.

Listening is important for the disciple to look at because information comes at us all the time from a variety of ways. When we hear we also need to discern from what is right or wrong. Not all information is true. It can contain truth but when one looks at the bigger picture we may see that there is more misdirection. That the truth that one thought was true does not line up with the Word of God.

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James tell us to be quick to hear and slow to speak (James 1:19). It is important to take time and think and meditate on the information we are hearing. We must train ourselves not only to listen to people, but also to open up our hearts to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. He is our great comforter and teacher sent to us by the Father above.

Second he does according to what he hears. He gets wisdom and understanding and then does what he has learned. To learn about something new and then choose not to use it is foolish. We need to put action to our words and do that which is right. Too often one thing gets promised but then something else gets done. Or we do not do what we have been told or instructed to do. We say, "yes, yes" and then do what is easy or best for us. Often our human nature takes us down a pathway of "least resistance", but if we are planning to do something, we should purpose in our heart to do it with excellence.

A wise builder will want to be connected to other wise builders who can mentor and show them how they should be building both physically, mentally and spiritually. Being mentored is key to growth and building one life. We can learn so much from others. It is also important that we learn from the history of other people's blessings and mistakes.

Thirdly, he continues to practice what he has learned. He does it over and over again until he can do it well. Many people seemed to be allergic to the idea of practice. We are willing to do it in some areas where it has been designation as something we must do to graduate in a

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certain field. But all too often we avoid practicing unless it is important for prestige or financial gain.

Practice helps to develop good habits in the person. Practice also brings the person to doing a set of tasks without much thought or effort. There is an old saying, "practice makes perfect".

The wise builder must take time to practice if they hope to become good at what they are all called to do.

Whether it's a physical, emotional or spiritual endeavor we all need to practice so that we may become better at what the Lord has called us to do. We sometimes say that we need to practice over and over again, until we can do it in our sleep. Olympic athletes practice and compete with the hope that they will get to a standard that they can be the best in the world. For some athletes they practice over and over again for some type of competition that may last only 10 seconds in duration. That is commitment to a goal of excellence and all disciples should be striving for excellence in everything they build and do.

Finally because he now has the knowledge and experience, he often is asked to build and to help others to build also. All skills need to be passed on to others. As we become wiser, we soon will be called upon to share with others what we have learned. We should not be trying to keep trade secrets but where we can and especially in the church we should be helping others to get to a deeper relationship and walk with Christ. We should be willing and even step aside where others become more skilful than

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ourselves. We do what we do for the benefit of Christ's body. We are not so much called to build an individual dwelling but a house for all believers, a place where we all can be interconnected to each other.

What then makes a person a wise builder? I believe it comes by hearing, practicing and doing what has been laid out for us by the Bible. The Bible is the master plan and blueprint that we all as disciple need to build our lives on. Blueprints are key to being a wise builder. They show important details for all the different stages of building. The Bible should also be our blueprint for building our lives, plus those that God has brought into our life.

How does this relate to our personal lives concerning our body, soul and spirit.

The way this relates to us is that we need to have a plan that is Biblically sound, that over time we will get built up into a place of being a mature person for Christ. We should never be ashamed of what we have built. The key is to wait upon the Lord Jesus Christ and He will show us what and how to build our life for Him. We want to become a structure where others can find safety and peace. We as disciples should desire to become Christ's "servant builders".

Secondly, A "Wise Builder" prepares a good foundation.

The next important thing when it comes to building is, to lay a good foundation. The foundation is the key to

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everything that one will build afterwards. They tell us that the CN Tower in Toronto has as much concrete under the ground as there is above the ground. Or take the common tree, they say again that often the root system is larger below the ground than that which is seen above the ground.

The foundation also is the balancing point between the ground and that which is above the ground. The foundation is the anchor that keeps the building firm and established. That is why the location for the foundation, that we are to build on, is so important to everything that we do. Proper foundation and good location gives longevity to the structure itself.

Jesus encourages His hearers not to build on sand but to dig down and find the rock and build on it. What Jesus is stating is that the foundation is the most critical part to anything that we build. If it is not set right in the beginning then when challenges come one's way, the structure that you have set up on top of it will fall down. The foundation keeps the building firmly in place.

It is also important not only to pick the right kind of ground that you will build your foundation on, but to use the right material in building the foundation itself. Jesus tells us to make it strong and firm because it will carry all the weight of the entire building. In the olden days and especially in Israel they would go down to the quarry to cut out a massive foundation stone. But out of all the stones that had been cut, only one would be selected to become the key corner stone, because from that stone all the rest of the building would be lined up to it.