

(Matthew 7:24–27, NIV84)

“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. 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 everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who 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.”

The above statement from Jesus reminds me of another Bible passage, Psalm 127:1, which says: “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” The word "house" in both these passages refers to the "life" of individuals. What kind of life do we have? If our lives are guided by the philosophies and values of the unbelieving world, then our lives are worthless. When the storms of life come, the person who is not grounded in Christ and does not have Jesus as their sure and firm foundation will have nothing to rest in, nothing to withstand the storms of life and in the end will meet with disaster. Such lives are wasted.

We hear a lot today about Black Lives Matter. Regardless of what one's skin-color is, our lives all matter based on the payment that was made for our lives. Jesus bought us with His blood, which means that we are of incalculable worth; we matter to Jesus. But here is the key: if we disregard Jesus' word, if we turn a deaf ear to Him and build a life devoid of Him, we are on a collision course with disaster and we build our life in vain.

Hearing the words of Jesus and putting His word into practice is how we go about "building" a life that matters. And with that life we can make a difference, we can show God's love to everyone around us. We can share God's love with everyone around us. This allows us to live at peace, peace with our fellow human beings and, most importantly, peace with God. That way, whenever the storms of life come--and they always come--we can be at peace, because our life is built on Christ.

Resting with you on Christ our Rock,
Pastor Golm

June 9

The Rooted Life

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:3

Have you ever walked down a city street which was lined with stately elms? Rising high on each side, like pillars in a huge cathedral, they extend their leafy arms across the street so that they form a beautiful canopy of green, affording shade throughout the summer months.

In years gone by, at regular intervals among the elms, one would see a shabby wooden telephone pole, splintered, and weather-beaten. Although it stood as erect as the elms, it sprouted neither branches, nor leaves, and contributed nothing to the symphony of green and yellow which thrilled the heart of every passer-by.

Why the difference? The answer, of course, is simple. The elms had roots, and the telephone poles had none. The elms had tapped an unseen source below the ground from which they drew their daily sustenance, while the telephone pole was merely a piece of lifeless wood sunk into the earth.

The heart which is "hid with Christ in God" has found a secret source of daily nourishment. The person who has found his soul's redemption in the life and death of Christ, his Savior, is "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

The Christian life is the rooted life, rooted deeply and firmly in the promises of God. In those promises there is strength, assurance, and final victory.

Remember the illustration above—the picture of the shabby telephone poles and the luxuriant elm trees? Perhaps we should take a moment and ask ourselves: Which do we resemble most?

Lord, keep me firmly rooted in Your Word. Amen.

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)