

Foundations

2019, Pastor Debbie Bronkema

<http://www.pvillepresby.org>

“In an effort to reach people with different perspectives and preferences, we’re testing an automated speech to text transcription for Pastor Debbie’s sermon. This process is not 100% accurate but provides a rough transcription of the sermon Pastor Debbie preached. Pastor Debbie preaches from a manuscript but often goes off script as led by the spirit, making the original manuscript an inaccurate representation of the Sunday service.”

In this sermon, Pastor Debbie asks us to remember that no matter how old or how young, no matter how many mistakes we feel we’ve made, no matter how knocked over we’ve been—we can still build our faith on the foundation of God.

“Why do you call me “Lord, Lord”, and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.’ ” --Luke 6:46-49

(Originally Preached on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at Pleasantville Presbyterian Church)

Scripture: Luke 6:46-49

<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=418640187>

[0:00] From the Gospel of Luke Chapter six Why do you call me Lord Lord?

And do not do what I tell you?

I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my word and acts on them.

That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock when a flood arose The river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built.

But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation.

When the river burst against it immediately, it fell.

And great was the ruin of that house.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please pray with me.

[0:57] Your God,

may the words of my mouth and the listening ears of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight.

Oh, God, our rock and our redeemer, **Amen.**

Sermon: "Foundations"

[1:11] I've been watching a foundation be built on rock this week right outside the windows of my office.

It is quite a sight to see. So when this turned out to be the **lectionary** text, it struck me yet again.

How amazing Jesus is at explaining faith to us through parables through stories.

If our foundation is strong when the storms come, we will not be swept away.

Now it is more popular to preach that if you just believe in God, the storms won't come at all.

But that's not what Jesus said. How could he?

He knew what was true about life in this world. That storms come eventually to everybody, some small, like a spring shower that barely washes the mud off the tires and some with ferocious wind that knocks over trees and topples life as we know it.

And how we come out of the storms. How we go on in our lives.

Jesus tells us how we come to the other side depends on how we built our foundation in the first place foundation, the ground underneath the ground, the things we believe and are willing to stand on no matter what.

[2:39] What are the things we believe in, the rocks we stand on.

If it's money or possessions, those can be gone in any storm.

If it's fame or a popularity, those can be fleeting, too.

A new flavor of the month is always on the horizon.

Even the foundations we build on that seem more steady.

Relationships with other people, with friends, with family, with marriage.

For those relationships to weather the storms, they need the rock of a foundation in us that says the things we believe matter.

[3:21] That says we are who we say we are and who we are can be trusted because we stand on a rock and stand for what we say we stand for.

[3:34] What is the foundation we stand on today?

I was thinking about that question and preparing for writing as a spiritual practice the other night, and I came across a book, *The Artist Way of preaching*.

It was a book one of my professors wrote in seminary. He was a unique guy.

We had five books to read before the class with papers, and when we got to the class, he said, Take your favorite one and set up camp in it for two weeks, and we went, "What?" This is not a usual teacher.

He had a church in Big Sky Montana, a new church development that he planted, and he told us along the way of some of his journeys and of how he needed to be built on the rock.

And I wondered as I looked through his book, What was his rock?

And I came across this story. He was seventeen years old and it was Easter morning, and he had decided to go to church he hadn't been for a while, but his mom was in the choir and he wanted to make his mom happy.

So he went to church. His dad was across the world on a business trip, and he was sitting there thinking, I don't know what I believe anymore.

I'm not sure about this.

[4:59] And then the offering plate came and he remembered the verse that he'd been reading in the Bible the night before.

It said Give and it will be given to you a good measure. poured down, shaken together Running over will be put into your lap for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. That was from Luke six.

[5:22] And so he thought about that, and he put a dollar in the plate and he prayed, Okay, God, I'm put in a dollar into this plate If you're really if you care about me, if you hear this prayer, I want you to double my dollar.

And not thirty years from now with compound interest **Amen.**

Not your traditional prayer.

So then he was walking with his girlfriend after service a few minutes later, and they were walking down the street and a car almost came up on the sidewalk.

The tire had blown, and he saw that it was an older woman in the car.

And he went and said, Can I help you? And and he changed her tire for her and she was really grateful.

And she thanked him, and she put her hand into his to say thank you and he felt money and he walked away and looked, and there were two dollars in his hand.

[6:19] So for the rest of his life, he couldn't un remember that that had happened.

[6:31] He couldn't unlearn what he already had learned.

But let's not miss what's beneath that memory.

There were already important rocks in place.

The family he had that pointed him toward faith. A mom that was in the choir, the parents that told him being in church was a good thing to do.

He would have been there to pray the prayer in the first place without them.

The family that taught him that When someone in front of you is in need, you don't keep walking with your girlfriend. You stop and you spend time changing their tire.

And then did you notice that Even though he said he was a big doubter the night before Easter, he's reading the Bible,

opening himself up to the word of God, even in the midst of all his doubts.

[7:29] What are the foundations of our faith? Are they laid in rock?

[7:37] Even if we realize right here and right now that our foundation isn't built on rock, it's not too late.

We are invited to go back and lay the foundation again, no matter how old or how young we are or how many mistakes we feel like we've made.

How knocked over we've been in the storm, we can still find the rock of Christ in worship and communion.

In God's word, we can stand on the boulders of God's word and God's love can still be at the heart off the rest of our journey.

It's not too late.

We are here now while we still have breath to pray to sing.

So listen, we can say yes,
to God's love, reaching out to us in Jesus and know that we are invited to stand on the rock
in Jesus name. Amen.