

SAVIOR, YES! BUT LORD?

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cecil Clements

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Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29

“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. 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. 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. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall.”

When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Well, you’ve heard this passage many times before and probably even sung it as a chorus in Sunday school. But here, Jesus is bringing home the point that the foundation that we build our lives and our homes on, should be built on the rock. It should be on something that is stable. The rock is Him, that our lives must be built on Him and the truths that He brings to us. Jesus says, “If anyone hears these words of Mine and acts on them.” So, it is not enough to just hear words and even maybe, believe them. But we need to go one step further and act on them as well, and make sure that what we believe in our hearts and in our minds is followed up by behavior as well. Then our lives will be built on rock that, when the winds of adversity come, they will not fall.

I started thinking about that. The winds of adversity are really coming our way – to just think about a storm. I’ve been looking at different storms; also, at huge ships that were in port or coming into port, and then being hit by storms; how even huge ships like this could be moved around so easily. One of the images that really caught me was yesterday, I think it was a storm at Doha airport, where a huge 787 Dreamliner was being moved across till it went and hit an Airbus that was standing next to it. I was so surprised. The size of these airplanes, and yet, winds of about 61 miles per hour could move this particular aircraft so much that it hit another aircraft.

That’s how the storms of life come – with such power and such intensity. We have to not only be founded on the rock, but we need to keep our eyes, our attention on Jesus as well. Peter exemplified that for us. While he trusted Jesus, got out of the boat and began to walk on water, the Bible says that when he took his eyes off of Jesus, then he heard the winds, he saw the storm. He saw everything that was crazy around him and fear gripped him, and he began to sink. Then he cried out to Jesus.

I think, as we look at this, it’s possible to be very secure in where we are standing on the foundation that we have built our house. And yet, to look at the winds and in some way, maybe, be fearful of them, to be concerned about them, and to allow fear to immobilize us.

I know that you are listening to me and thinking: I’m founded on the rock. But let me ask you a question: Are you saved this morning? Do you know Jesus as your Savior? If the answer to that is yes, my next question to you is: Are you experiencing anxiety? Are you experiencing

any fear? Are you troubled about any of the things that are going on around you, and how it's going to affect your life?

Well, the truth is, beloved, that being saved and knowing Jesus as Savior ensures that you will one day be with Him in heaven. But the other component is – how do we traverse this earth? How do we go through this earthly life and face all the adverse situations that are confronting us that have the potential to bring anxiety, fear and hopelessness into our lives? How do we navigate these issues?

The answer lies, beloved, in not only knowing Jesus as Savior, but knowing Him as Lord. The Lordship of Jesus in our lives is what enables us to walk confidently through all the adverse situations that face us. When the storms of life come, are we able to keep our eyes fixed on Him and say, “Lord, I’m trusting You in every situation to take me through this”?

I was just wrestling with God in a sense, praying and asking God why He had laid this upon my heart. And I felt that God was leading me to a place where, even as ones who know Jesus, we could be going through a difficult time. In our homes, where suddenly you're with your children for 24 hours where maybe hitherto, all you did was come home in the evening, and spend half an hour with them and then they went to bed. That was the kind of relationship that you had with them. Now suddenly, you're faced with being with them 24 hours and you're finding it difficult. Maybe you're getting irritated, upset and anxious about whether you can do your work and handle the kids. Suddenly everything is changed. Your relationship with Jesus is still the same, and you are still saved. You are going to be in heaven with Him, but the Lordship of Jesus, Him having Lordship every moment of every day, that needs to be renewed each and every moment. So, even in this to be able to say, “Lord, I’m finding this difficult. Would You take control of this situation?”

Maybe it's the relationship with your spouse. You are both together now 24 hours and things that never surfaced before are beginning to surface. You're getting upset with each other for no reason, or at least it seems like that. Maybe that's an area that you need to bring to Him and say, “Lord, would You be Lord of this area? Would you be the Lord of our relationship as well?”

Or maybe, it's your job. Maybe it's going well, you're working and yet, at the back of your mind, you're wondering how long this will go on. Maybe, that worry, that anxious thought needs to be brought to Him, give it to Him and let Him assume Lordship over your life, over this circumstance as well. Sometimes we forget that the ongoing relationship with Jesus starts with accepting Him as Savior, but continues as we submit to His Lordship every moment of every day.

I had the wonderful opportunity of knowing Dr. J.T. Seamands. Both Sheila and I have enjoyed some wonderful moments with this holy man of God. We were just so touched by his life. I remember going with him and it was such a privilege to go with him on a few mission conferences, where we would go and speak and sing and do things together. I remember him making a remark about this in his book. He said, “When we go to a missions' conference, I am met by the host, and the host family will take me home and say, “Brother JT, please come in. this is our home. Feel free.” They take me up to my room and say, “This is your room. Rest, have a wonderful time here. If you get hungry, there's the kitchen. The fridge is yours, help yourself.” Then they take me to the living room where there is a piano, “Play the piano. We know you love to play.” And then they would leave me.

Dr. JT would say, “The one thing that I recognized immediately was that, in showing me the places that I could go to, they also let me know the places that I couldn’t go to. There were many other rooms in the house that they didn’t show me or give me access to.” But he said, when he got home, “I got out of my car, picked up my bag, walked into my house, set my bag down and looked around and said, ‘Here I have access to every room in this house.’”

He always asked the question: Does Jesus have access to every room in your house? Is He Lord of every area in your house? Or have you kept Him as a guest? Have you shown Him the living room, His bedroom, the dining room, and kept the other rooms for yourself?

Beloved, the Lordship of Jesus in our lives must be over every area of our lives. Every area. It must be over our relationships; it must be over our careers; it must be over the jobs we have. It must be over the things that we think. It must be over the things that we watch or read. It must be over every area. If Jesus is not Lord of a particular area, that area can contribute to anxiety and fear because He is not in charge. And in spite of being on solid ground, our minds can then begin to get fearful.

So I felt that the Lord was inviting us this morning to ask each of us the question: Am I Lord in your life? have you given me the keys to every room in your house? Will you allow me to take charge and lead you through this problem time? That’s the question that you and I need to answer this morning. he is Savior, yes! But is He Lord as well? and if He isn’t, is it time this morning, to hand over every area of your life to Him and say, “Lord, I’m beginning to get a little fearful, anxious in these areas, because I’m trusting myself and not You. Will You assume Lordship in my life?” Those of you who are saying, “I haven’t given Lordship to Jesus in every area and want to do it now, would you give it to Him? Would you just tell Him, “Lord, I yield Lordship to You this morning?”

Heavenly Father, would you accept these areas that we have kept to ourselves. Lord, move around to every home where there is somebody, a son or a daughter of Yours who is yielding their Lordship to You, and would You take charge? Would You let Your peace and joy and harmony and Your equilibrium settle upon us in fresh and beautiful ways? We ask this, Lord Jesus, in Your name, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.