

Parable of the Two Builders

Matthew 7:24-27

1. Can you recall the story of someone who seemed to have everything in life all together, but then went through a downward spiral that caused a terrible mess in their lives? Why do you think this happens to some people?
2. Pastor Mark suggests that big disasters in life don't usually happen because of one obvious incident, but because of a series of undetected and neglected issues that often go unnoticed. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Read the story of the two builders, Matthew 7:24-27. What is the single difference between the two builders? According to the story, what does it mean to "build your house upon the rock?"
4. Pastor Mark suggests that our biggest challenge as Christians isn't knowing what to do, it's actually doing what we know. Do you agree? Can you share an area in your life where you aren't really doing what you already know?
5. Pastor Mark points out that storms don't cause problems as much as they reveal problems that were already there. Storms are not for destruction but for instruction. Can you recall a "storm" in your life that taught you a valuable lesson?
6. Why is it important to allow our children and teenage experience some "storms" in life, rather than always seek to protect them and rescue them from difficulties and disappointment?
7. Pastor Mark mentions three basic foundational practices that help us build our house upon the rock. Those three practices are: Weekly worship, Being Connected to a small group, and having a Daily Quiet Time each morning. Of these three, which do you find easiest, which do you find most difficult to do consistently?

8. The challenge with things that are easy to do is that they are easy to neglect. Which of the three foundational practices is most easy for you to do?
9. Pastor Mark suggests that those things which require the most of us are often the best things for us. Which of the three foundational practices requires the most of you?
10. Do you think there is any correlation between the overall decline in the practice of Worship, Small Groups and Daily Quiet Time among American Christians and the decline of moral goodness in America today? Why or why not?
11. What are you doing (or need to do) consistently in order to build your house upon the rock?