

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

07 June 2026

What is the Foundation of Your Home?

Text: “ Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will like them to a wise person, who builds their house upon a rock: and the rain comes, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock”. *Matt. 7:24-25.*

What is your rock?

Or even better, who is your rock?

In the Pacific Palisades California at the ocean’s edge, it is common to see houses built on the top of high hills.

It must be marvelous to live in one of those houses; each night you could watch the sun sizzle into the sea, spreading behind it a glittering path of gold.

But some of the families who live in those houses have problems.

Land has crumbled away from beneath the foundations and left the houses hanging perilously from hillsides.

Because of that, many of the houses have had to be abandoned.

In the final sentences of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commented on two foundations for houses.

This is simultaneously a conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount and a call to commitment to Christ.

Ancient law codes often ended with a blessing or curse.

Jesus completed his sermon and called for a decision in these sentences.

Jesus stated that one place a person can build his house is on a rock.

Because such a house has a strong base, it can stand up against any sort of violence.

The other place a person can build a house is on the sand.

Houses built on that foundation cannot hold up when winds and floods press against them.

They are torn from their places, wind and water bouncing them about until they look like little mounds of toothpicks.

As we continue to think of the responsibilities before us in our Christian homes, one question comes to mind: On what are we building our homes?

We are faced with alternatives.

Unsure, unsafe foundations.

One of the alternatives before us is to build a home on an unsure, unsafe foundation.

Remember that Jesus was a carpenter.

He knew how important the foundation was in the strength and security of a home.

The tragedy of modern life is that so many homes are built on the wrong foundations.

Such foundations as popular opinion, instant gratification, and worldly power are hardly foundations for strong homes.

Or what is worse, some homes do not appear to be built on any foundation at all; they are just built.

Sure, safe foundations.

The stabilizing force necessary for strong homes that can withstand the pressures is Christian faith.

The greatest legacy a father can leave his family is a legacy of faith.

That legacy will still continue when the money has run out and stocks have lost their value.

We must face reality.

Did you notice that the Scriptures say that the rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew?

It does not say if the rains descended, if the floods come, and if the winds blew.

The actuality is that those kinds of events will descend on every home at some time.

These troubles may come from many sources and they may bear many different names and faces.

But the reality of life is that each one of us must face these times.

How will you face them?

Since the actuality is that you will face trouble, trial, and difficulty at some time, the question before us is how you will face them.

Where will you find the strength?

What will your resources be for those times of trouble?

I often tell young people, when counseling them prior to marriage, that they must have a reservoir of faith from which to draw when difficult times come.

There is no question but that that time will come.

And if we do not have that reservoir of faith beforehand, we will not have it when it is needed.

We can achieve.

Achievement is possible.

The positive promise of this parable is that we can achieve.

We can stand to face life.

We can build our homes properly.

When Jesus offered the alternatives to us and set before us a choice, he was also assuring us that success was possible.

Achievement depends on obedience to Christ.

Whether we build a stable home or an unsafe one depends on obedience to Jesus Christ.

We can achieve stability with Christ as the foundation.

When a family obeys the teachings that Christ enunciated in the Sermon on the Mount, that family builds its home on the solid foundation.

Faith makes the difference.

There is a marked difference in building a home on faith or floundering around in the world.

Faith makes the difference between success and failure in the home.

In his book "Fresh Every Morning" Gerald Kennedy contrasts the difference faith made in the lives of two of his friends.

One friend was not a believer.

His only son, a brilliant boy headed for a medical career, was killed at a railroad crossing on the way back to the university.

With the son's death came the death of meaning in the father's life.

He found it difficult to carry on his work.

Whenever Kennedy would meet him and talk with him, no word could bring him healing.

Kennedy had another friend who was an active believer who suffered similarly when his daughter was killed in an automobile accident.

But there was a difference: while his sorrow was deep, it did not over throw his life.

She was a Christian girl, and he spoke confidently of meeting her again,.

He published a little booklet giving excerpts from her letters and expressions of her faith.

It showed the difference faith makes.

On what are you building your home?

Every home is built on some foundation.

The foundation that Christ offers through faith in him and obedience to his Word is the foundation that stands.

Besides when you commit to HIM, He is with you to help you succeed.

Only Jesus gives you the strength to be His, now and forever!

What a deal!