

On the Rock

Introduction:

In our text for today, Jesus ends his sermon from the side of a mountain. It is the longest public discourse of Jesus that we have recorded in the Gospels, and it is packed full of wisdom for faith and life. He leaves us with a final metaphor.

He says that if we hear his words, and put them into practice, then we will be like a house built on a solid rock. When the storms and floods of life come, the house will stand, because the foundation is secure. Another way to look at this is that the teachings of Jesus are useless if they are not applied to our life. God's word is not simply for reading, it is for living out our days.

What good is a college education if it is not put into practice? What benefit does a coach have on a team if their instruction is not followed? Listen and plan to put God's words into practice!

Read Your Bible

- Psalm 40:1-3
- Matthew 7:24-27

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Are you a good listener? Why or why not?
2. Did you ever receive great advice that you ignored? What was it?
3. What are "sinking sand" foundations that people build their lives on today?
4. What does it look like to build your life on Jesus' teachings?
5. What teaching of Jesus for you is the most difficult to apply? Why?
6. What is the difference between hearing and application?
7. What does obedience to God's word mean to you? Is it important?
8. We do not know God by only reading his word, but by putting it into practice. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why or why not?
9. Is your life built on the rock?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father, may our lives be built on you, the solid rock. You have the words of eternal life. Your words are a light unto our feet and light unto our path. Forgive us and free us from the selfishness and sin in us when we think we know better than you what is good for our life. Unplug our ears, unclog our hearts, and put our mouth, our hands, and our feet into obedient action. In Jesus' Name. Amen.