



Newsletter: Special February 2023 feature edition

Special Message from our Moderator: Rev Mike Buck

DIG DEEP

I have chosen the following 2 scriptures for us to read: **Luke c6 vs 46-49** and **Luke c21 vs 8-36**. The first passage is the familiar parable of the House built on the Rock, and the second passage is where Jesus gives His Disciples some practical advice on how to deal with the storms that will come. So I wish to unpack each of them in turn and see what we can learn. Both passages will challenge us to think about what we are building with and what we are building on! **So Lets READ them now.**

PARABLE OF THE TWO HOUSES (Luke c6 vs 46-49)

No doubt we have heard or read this passage many times. It reminds us that if we are to build a house that will stand up to the storms of life we have to 'Dig Deep' in order to get down to and build on the security of the rock below. In other words Jesus is telling His Disciples that the most important thing for them to build their lives upon is God's Word! It is like a rock! We live in a world that says money can buy you security and pleasure. Well in the short term may be, but not long term! The Bible tells us God has promised to protect and provide for all His children if they follow His Guidelines, regardless of income! My wife and I can testify to that having lived for nearly 5 years totally relying on God to provide and protect us. Never once did we advertise our need or claim any dole money, and never once did God fail us! Interestingly it was during this time that we saw the most miracles in our lives! Common sense tells us if we want to live long, stay fit and healthy then we need to eat the right food and exercise! But it will require discipline of some sort; Athletes will tell you that. The same is true for the Christian Life; Ministers will tell you that. There are no short cuts or quick fixes to living on a diet of His Word and encouraging one another to live by it. This is what helps us to grow and mature and be able to stand up against all that life may throw at us. Whether conflicts, traumas, injustices, grief, fears, anger, enemies, sexuality, purpose etc Gods Word has much to say on all matters pertaining to this life and the next! Jesus makes this very clear! The question is are we willing to find out what God says and live by it!



PRACTICALITIES OF FOLLOWING JESUS (Luke c21 vs 8-36)

Now lets read this passage all through then go back to read a few verses at a time. It will help us unpack.

V8 'Take heed don't be deceived' many people will come claiming they have the answers if we followed them. Don't be deceived, don't get side tracked by them. Stay faithful to Me. V9 'Don't be terrified' bad things will happen, you may even be persecuted, but don't be alarmed, see it as an opportunity to witness V14 'Settle in your hearts beforehand' Rely on me to give you all the wisdom you need when its needed. I will be with you whether you feel me or not. V19 'In patience possess your souls' Take charge of your emotions don't let them dictate your decisions, keep cool under pressure. V22 'All things which are written will be fulfilled' In other words I have got everything in hand, certain things must take place before I act, so don't worry, stay close to Me. V26 'Men's hearts will fail them' Left to themselves people will start to panic because they will try to cope without me and fail. V34 'So take heed, don't let your hearts be weighed down with it all' I am telling you now so you will be ready, and not caught out, when the time comes. V36 'Watch and pray so that you'll be able to escape these things that will come to pass' Being forewarned is to be forearmed. To be ready when the time comes to pass. In this way we will be able to overcome the storms! There is plenty of good and wise advice in the Bible! And there are many Christian books you can buy which testify to the goodness and miraculous provision of God for all those People who took the time to read it and find out. Who knows, you may be the one to write the next book!

Storms of life happen to all of us. Either we will be found standing on the Rock of His Word or we will sink in the sand of our feeble efforts to cope! Through these passages Jesus challenges us to put our faith in what God has to say, cos it will save us the embarrassment of sinking in our own pride. We might think we can get by on a wing and a prayer at first but it won't last. Basing our lives on His Word will prevent a lot of unnecessary suffering and embarrassment in our lives! We need to get familiar with it and ask God to speak to us through it. After all it is given to show us how WE need to live and overcome all the things that life throws at us. So my hope is that you will rise to the challenge and get familiar with His Word.

