**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | What to Do When the Bottom Falls Out |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 7:24-27 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2140 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Do you know someone, or an entire family, that was faithful to the church?
      1. They were seemingly serving the Lord and presumably happy in Jesus.
      2. Then, some calamity came, and they dropped out.
         1. The bottom fell out of life, and they didn’t know what to do.
   2. What do you do when the bottom falls out?
      1. You examine the foundation.
   3. Matthew 7:24-27
      1. Life in nature is tragic.
         1. Sooner or later, we are going to get sick.
         2. Sooner or later, we are going to die.
         3. Life in its very essence is tragic apart from God.
      2. In this passage, the Jesus is speaking about our lives as if they are houses.
         1. We all need houses to live in.
            1. A house is for shelter.
            2. A house is for security.
            3. A house is for sufficiency, satisfaction, and supply.
            4. A house is a place of retreat.
            5. A house is for serenity.
         2. Your soul also needs a house.
            1. There needs to be a sanctuary for the soul.
            2. There needs to be a place of security and sufficiency where your spirit can dwell.
            3. Jesus uses the analogy of an earthly house to speak of a spiritual house.

A sanctuary for the soul to live in.

* + - * 1. All of us are building that kind of a house.

We cannot live in someone else’s house; we must live in the house we build.

* 1. In this passage in Matthew 7, Jesus told of two kinds of builders.
     1. He told of builders that outwardly looked very similar.
        1. Both of these builders had the same purpose.
           1. They were building a house.
        2. They built in the same place because Jesus told of a storm that struck both houses.
           1. Matthew 7:24-27
        3. They had the same plan with a floor, walls, and a roof.
           1. There may have been some differences, but there was much similarity.
     2. When we look at people outwardly, there are very definite, superficial similarities.
        1. There is a distinctive difference in everyone which cannot be seen.
           1. The difference is underground; it deals with the foundation.
  2. One of the homes that Jesus talked about had a rock foundation, and the other home was built on shifting sand.
     1. So it is with people today.
        1. There are those today who are built upon a solid foundation.
        2. There are those who have endeavored to build upon the sand.
           1. The sand builder has no foundation.
  3. Outwardly, the two houses looked the same, but the storm displayed the difference.
     1. When the storm came, the difference in these two houses was revealed.
     2. The house built on the sand fell because it had no foundation.
     3. When the wind, the rains, and the flood came, the house that was built upon the rock stood.
     4. The difference was underground.
  4. What do you do when the bottom falls out?
     1. You go back and examine the foundation.
     2. If you realize that the bottom fell out because you had no foundation, then you begin to build again.
        1. But this time, you build on solid rock.
     3. In today’s message, we will look at the foundation of a rock-solid faith and how to have it, what it is, and what it is like.

1. the surety of rock-solid faith (matthew 7:15-16, 24)
   1. There are three things that are necessary for us to have rock-solid faith:
      1. We must have the Word of God.
      2. We must hear the Word of God.
      3. We must heed the Word of God.
   2. Jesus said that the foundation is the Word of God.
      1. Matthew 7:24
      2. It is the sayings of Jesus, the Word of God, that gives us this foundation.
   3. Make sure you have the Word of God.
      1. Matthew 7:15
         1. We may be building on the shifting sand of philosophy or false religion or some other quagmire rather than on the Word of God because there are many false prophets out in the world.
      2. If Jesus says to beware, then we ought to listen.
         1. Our Lord is talking about false prophets, people who are in religion.
      3. The devil is not opposed to religion; it is one of his chief tools.
         1. There are two ways that Satan tries to war against the church:
            1. Persecution
            2. Infiltration
         2. Infiltration is more dangerous than persecution.
            1. In Matthew 7:15, Jesus spoke of infiltration.

He spoke of those who pretend to be prophets of God.

They wear sheep’s clothing, but it is a disguise.

They are really the enemy within the gates.

* + 1. Paul spoke to the elders of the Ephesian church.
       1. He was about to leave them, and he was afraid that they might allow false prophets to come into the church.
       2. Acts 20:28-29
          1. Paul said to take heed and be careful that you have the Word of God.
    2. When you look for the devil, never fail to look in the pulpit.
       1. Satan occupies many pulpits today.
       2. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
          1. Though a man may have on a clerical robe, he may not have been divinely anointed and appointed.

He has been ordained of the devil.

* + - 1. Make certain that you have the Word of God.
      2. Look beneath the fleece.
         1. Satan is a master of disguise.
    1. In the world today, there are all kinds (denominations) of religions.
       1. Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, etc.
    2. But there are actually only two kinds of religion:
       1. The true
       2. The false
    3. How are we going to know that we have the Word of God?
       1. Matthew 7:16
          1. We know them by their fruits.
       2. It is the root that produces the fruit.
          1. If we have a tree and we don’t like the kind of fruit it is bearing, then what might we do with it?

Prune it

But that is not going to change the fruit.

All that does is strengthen the root.

Transplant it

Many people try to do that.

They go from one church to another without being born again.

Cultivate it

Today, there are a lot of church growth conferences.

But these conferences are not based on the Word of God.

Attendees are taught how to fertilize weeds.

Decorate it

But we cannot change the fruit without changing the root.

The root produces the fruit.

* + - 1. The fruit reveals the root.
         1. Sometimes we look at a fruit tree and can’t tell what kind of tree it is until it bears fruit.
         2. Jesus said that we will know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:16

* + - * 1. A person’s ministry is found in John 15:16.

Are you becoming more like Jesus Christ?

That is the fruit.

Is the Word of God making you more like Jesus?

Galatians 5:22

This is the fruit of the Spirit.

This is just a description of the Lord Jesus Christ.

* + - 1. The seed determines both the root and the fruit.
         1. The seed is the Word of God.
         2. When the Gospel is preached, seed is being planted.
    1. Make certain that you have the Word of God.
       1. Beware of false prophets.
       2. Many people are looking for a church that suits them.
          1. We need to look for a church that suits God.
          2. Find a church that is based rock-solid on the Word of God.
  1. Make sure you hear the Word of God.
     1. Matthew 7:24
     2. It is one thing to belong to a Bible-believing church and to have a copy of the Word of God in your home, but have you really heard the Word of God?
        1. Have you really listened to the Word of God?
     3. In order to do this, you must dig deeply.
        1. Luke 6:48
        2. Sometimes we have to dig to get to a rock.
        3. Many people want to be spoon-fed a little truth on Sundays, but they are not digging.
           1. Their spiritual houses don’t have foundations.

They may not have the Word of God.

They don’t hear the Word of God because they are not listening.

They are not digging.

* + - 1. Why did the man build his house upon the sand?
         1. It was easier, cheaper, and quicker.
      2. The man who built his house upon the rock dug deep.
         1. We must have the Word of God.
         2. Romans 10:17

The word “hear” in this verse doesn’t mean to simply let the sound waves come into our ears.

* 1. We must heed the Word of God.
     1. Matthew 7:24
     2. We must do the Word of God.
     3. James 1:22
        1. Someone who does not obey what he has heard is self-deceived.
           1. Jesus calls him a fool.

Matthew 7:26

* + - * 1. His faith is dead faith.
    1. James 2:14-20
       1. In the Greek, verse 14 says, “Can that faith save him?”
       2. Without works, they are just empty words.
       3. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.
          1. It is always accompanied by works.
    2. The devil is more orthodox than some preachers.
       1. The devil at least knows the holiness of Jesus Christ.
       2. The demons cringed and trembled at Jesus.
          1. Luke 4:34
       3. There are people who have no more faith than the devil.
          1. They have intellectual faith, but they do not live by their faith.

James 2:26

* 1. What good is a body of truth without the life of the Spirit?
     1. We might do an autopsy on our faith and see if it is the real faith.
        1. As the body without the brain is dead, faith without works is dead.
        2. If we have faith, then it is going to show in our works.

1. the stability of rock-solid faith (matthew 7:25, 27)
   1. We can expect storms whether we are saved or lost.
   2. Matthew 7:25, 27
      1. These verses tell us that the storm beat upon both houses.
   3. Notice how the Lord Jesus described the storms:
      1. The rain fell.
         1. That is pressure from above.
      2. The floods came.
         1. That is pressure from beneath.
      3. The winds blew.
         1. That is pressure from all around.
   4. Our faith is going to be tested.
      1. The faith that cannot be tested is the faith that cannot be trusted.
      2. Our faith will not be tested in the sunshine, our faith will be tested in the storm.
      3. The test of our faith is not popularity or profession.
      4. The test of our faith is our stability in the storm.
   5. Hebrews 11 was written to a group of people who were about to abandon the faith because of great persecution that was coming upon the church.
      1. The writer of Hebrews told about the exciting victories of faith.
         1. Daniel in the lion’s den
         2. Moses at the Red Sea
         3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were taken out of the fiery furnace.
      2. At the end of the chapter, he talks about the enduring virtues of faith.
         1. “*And others were stoned, some were sawn asunder, some endured a strange trial of affliction*.”
            1. Hebrews 11:36-39
   6. Faith does not mean that we are not going to have a storm.
      1. The storms beat upon both houses.
         1. Matthew 7:24-27
      2. If you get your theology from circumstances, then sooner or later when the storms come, you will get the idea that God doesn’t love you.
         1. John 11:5
            1. Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.
         2. John 11:14-15
            1. But Lazarus died, and the Lord said that He was glad.
         3. Difficulty does not mean that God has abandoned you.
      3. Habakkuk 3:17-18
   7. Faith is not receiving from God the things that you want.
      1. Faith is accepting from God the things that He gives.
         1. The winds, the rains, and the floods beat upon both houses.
2. the security of rock-solid faith (Mattthew 7:25)
   1. People cave in because they have nothing to stand on.
      1. The bottom falls out.
      2. They are all house and no foundation.
      3. They have profession without possession.
   2. Matthew 7:22-23
   3. 1 John 2:19
      1. When the doctor’s report came, when the job was gone, when the child died, when calamity came, and when the bottom fell out, they threw in the towel and quit.
         1. The winds, the rains, and the storms were too much for them.
   4. Had we examined Simon Peter and Judas, which of these two apostles would have been the most likely to succeed?
      1. We would have thought Judas.
         1. He was the treasurer.
            1. Who is made the treasurer?

The person whom we trust most.

* + 1. Peter kept putting his foot in his mouth.
       1. He was always so arrogant, self-satisfied, and self-reliant.
    2. Outwardly, their houses looked the same.
    3. Both of these men went through a storm.
       1. The storm came to Judas.
          1. It was fear, greed, and selfish glorification.
          2. There was the storm of his betrayal of Jesus.
          3. There was the storm of his remorse and guilt, and he committed suicide.

The bottom fell out.

* + - 1. The storm came to Simon Peter.
         1. Luke 22:31-32
         2. Jesus knew that Peter had faith.
      2. Some people believe that Judas lost his salvation.
         1. Judas never was saved.

John 6:70

John 6:64

Jesus didn’t make a mistake; it was all a part of His plan.

He knew Judas had no faith.

* + - 1. Jesus knew that Peter was weak and stumbling, but Peter had faith.
    1. Matthew 16:13-18
       1. Jesus asked the disciple who the people thought he was.
       2. Jesus asked Peter, “*Who do you say that I am*?”
       3. Peter answered, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God*.”
          1. Peter did not just figure it out.
          2. God the Father revealed this to Peter.
          3. Peter had a rock to stand on.
    2. The difference between Judas and Peter was the foundation.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Storms come to everybody.
   2. Outwardly, we all look alike.
      1. But if you want to see the difference, then you have to look beneath the surface to the foundation.
   3. Make certain that you have a rock-solid faith.
      1. Have the Word of God.
         1. Beware of false prophets.
      2. Hear the Word of God.
         1. Don’t let it just blow past you.
      3. Heed the Word of God.
         1. John 14:21
         2. If someone is a hearer of the Word only and not a doer, then he deceives his own heart.
            1. James 1:22
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16