

Building on a Firm Foundation

Andy Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. We often ask God what we will get out of God's standard of morality.
 - 1. We serve a God who is sensitive to our pain and sensation.
 - 2. We are not the first person to ask this question.
- B. Jesus explained what would happen to a person who stepped out in faith through a parable.
- C. If you obey, you endure. If you do not obey, you will not endure.
- D. Text: Matthew 7.

II. Obedience now results in endurance later. Disobedience now results in calamity later.

- A. If a person chooses to build his life on Christ, he will survive.
- B. If a person chooses to build his life on sand for convenience, he will drop out when the hard times come.
- C. One must trust Jesus because hard times are coming.
- D. This is a parable about time and faith.
 - 1. Every act of obedience now exercises faith muscle.
 - 2. Obedience now is endurance later.
- E. Endurance comes to all of us as a promise.
- F. Do not wait for the storm to come. When the storm comes, it is too late to begin thinking about salvation.
- G. For those who have made the decision to follow Christ too late, relationships may not be restored, but there will be peace.

Application questions:

- 1. How does this parable emphasize timing?

2. How would you respond to people living in sin who say they will wait until their deathbed to repent?

3. What are some areas of your life that you need to respond to God to in obedience? In what way does this message challenge you?
