FAMILY LESSONS ON THE ROCK OF SALVATION

Based on Luke 6:47-48

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LESSON #1

Why Do You Call Me Lord?

"Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:

he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.

And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it,

because it had been well built."

Luke 6:47-48 (ESV)

When I was a child, I remember singing a song about this passage of scripture, the story of the wise and foolish builders. I can still remember the words:

The wise man built his house upon the rock, and the rains came tumbling down.

The rain came down as the floods came up and the house on the rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand, and the rains came tumbling down.

The rain came down as the floods came up and the house on the sand went crash.

I vividly remember singing this song in Sunday school as a young child, with all the drama of the storm, the flood and the foolish man's house crashing at the end. But I don't believe I ever really understood the message. Perhaps it is because the children's song doesn't include the important question Jesus asked before He told this story, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46) This question is a key to understanding the message Jesus wants us to hear.

Many people call Jesus "Lord" and want to be His followers. But calling Jesus "Lord" is not what makes us His disciple. Jesus warns us that if we want to be His followers, we must actually follow Him. This involves action. Hearing and saying the truth are never enough. That is only the first part of becoming His disciple. A true follower of Christ not only hears His words, but also does them. He is not just a hearer; he's a doer.

Of course, we know that Jesus wasn't really talking about building houses in this story. He was talking about building lives, our lives. His message is simple and powerful. Jesus is our rock, our firm foundation for life. But if we want to build on that foundation, we must actually do the things Jesus taught us to do. If we want Him to be our Lord, it will require more than words. It will require action. Real faith and real discipleship is lived out one step at a time. What action is Jesus asking of you? What step does Jesus want you to take today?

QUESTONS TO PONDER

What were Jesus' last words in His great Sermon on the Mount? (Luke 6: 46-49 and Matthew 7:24-27)

Why did the house on the rock stand firm? (Luke 6: 48 and Matthew 7:25)

Why was the ruin of the foolish builder's house so great? (Luke 6: 49 and Matthew 7:27)

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the "Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life," go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.