

Becoming like Jesus in wisdom (Based on Chapter 20 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

The proof of our FAITH is in the doing.

Biblical Foundation

So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was! Matthew 7:24-29 (TEV)

The fact that we are so easily convinced that living as a Christian is often impractical reveals how deeply submerged we are in the fallen thinking: Why can't you build your house on sand? What does Jesus know about the storms of life? What would a carpenter know about building?

Surrender to Jesus is hard work and Bonhoeffer suggests our biggest battle is against our own tendency to admire the Sermon on the Mount rather than obey it.

Jesus refuses to coddle us. He offers no middle ground. If you do not obey, you disobey. If you do not live by faith, you live faithlessly. If you are not committed to being obedient to Jesus, then where do you land? What would be the middle ground: commitment to passive resistance to Jesus?

Talk about this statement: Stability and security in my life come from my obedient trust in Jesus (Matthew 7:24).

What does Paul mean by this verse: "This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me" (Galatians 2:20 TEV).

How does this verse teach us that faith is based on believing what we cannot yet see? "For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25 TEV).