

Sunday, February 5, 2017 - "Building a Firm Foundation" - Dr. Stacey Lemanski

Key Passages: Matthew 7:24-28, The story of Joseph in Genesis

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We are all building something with our lives
- We can build an unshakeable foundation (On the rock)
- 8 Principles for building a firm foundation from the life of Joseph
 - #1- We build a firm foundation when our past doesn't define us
 - Joseph didn't have a perfect start to his life
 - His parents struggled with deceit
 - #2- We build a firm foundation when we know we are loved by God
 - Joseph may have been a bit arrogant and favored
 - But he knew he was loved by his daddy
 - We have to know intellectually and emotionally/internally that we are loved by the father
 - We build our lives on the rock when we are utterly convinced that nothing can separate us from His love
 - #3- We build a firm foundation when we resist our selfish desires
 - Joseph resisted temptation with Potiphar's wife
 - We give in to sinful desires because we long for the fullness and pleasure that comes from God
 - Deepest joy and pleasure come from relationship and intimacy with the Father
 - #4- We build a firm foundation when we allow God to prune us
 - God was pruning Joseph for His purposes
 - Pruning is painful (Hebrews 12) but we have to participate in the training process
 - #5- We build a firm foundation when our identity is established in Christ
 - Coming into agreement with who God says we are
 - #6- We build a firm foundation when we trust in the goodness of God
 - Joseph trusted God's goodness and plan even when he was in prison (Genesis 41:15-16)
 - Joseph passed on his glory for God to get glory
 - #7- We build a firm foundation when we choose to forgive
 - The way Joseph responds to his brothers when they are sent to Egypt for food
 - Unforgiveness and bitterness create cracks in our foundation
 - #8- We build a firm foundation when we embrace humility
 - As everything Joseph did prospered he walked in humility
 - Whoever humbles himself will be exalted
- We have an enemy who wants us to keep living on sand
- God wants to build a mature church and building a foundation can be painful and difficult
- There is HOPE. Hope that no matter how shaky our foundation is now, we can partner with God in building a new one
- We are called to build our lives on the rock...and it's for the purpose of saving many lives

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How is your foundation right now?
2. How would you describe God's love for you? How are you doing at believing God's love for you?
3. Why can it be hard for you to establish your identity in Christ?
4. How does the goodness of God affect your every day? How would the goodness of God affect your every day if you truly believed it?
5. How are some of the ways you may be walking in pride instead of humility?
6. How is God calling you to build a new or different foundation?
7. What is God calling you to or inviting you into as a result of this passage and/or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: 1 John 5 Tues: Mark 1 Wed: Mark 2 Thurs: Mark 3 Fri: Mark 4**