

Our House

Matthew 7:24-27

#7 in our series "Stories Jesus Told"

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Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for who you are. We ask that you would help us to preach. Speak your words through me. In Jesus' name, and his name means You are salvation! Amen.

Message

On Tuesday, October 17, 1989, at 5:04 p.m. I had driven over to the youth house to borrow the lawnmower. I was bending over trying to put the key in the trunk of my '67 Ford Mustang and I missed the keyhole. Well, I tried again and it didn't work and I thought the car must have moved. I figured that some high school kid was shaking my car because the trunk was moving. I looked up and the house was moving, the trees were moving, the street was moving, & I was moving. I looked down El Pintado Blvd. and I could see waves coming through the pavement toward me; it was the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Earthquakes are really unnerving because suddenly you realize that everything you assumed was permanent isn't at all. Being an old geology student, I thought it was totally cool. For a about a minute or two, it felt like I was floating down a river on a raft. But my wife didn't think it was totally cool, and she let me know it when I got home about ten minutes later. As we sat out on the front lawn with John, who was one year old, and Elizabeth who was four days old and listened to a report on a battery-operated radio; I realized how NOT cool it was for millions:

First we heard that a portion of the Bay Bridge had fallen, then the Embarcadero freeway had fallen, then the Cypress structure on the 880. And it was strange: There was one earthquake, but one place would be devastated and the next place unscathed.

[Image of a map of the area affected by the earthquake]

This map reveals 880 collapsed where it passed over sand and mud and was fine where it was built on rock.

In San Francisco, the houses built on one block would be fine and the next would collapse:

And that's because some houses were built on rock, and some houses were built on landfill—mud and sand dumped into the bay around the turn of the century. Mud and sand amplify the shaking like Jell-O in a bowl.

But if a house is built on bedrock, it moves with the rock; it's attached to the rock and is undamaged by the rock.

Well, I'm just saying the foundation makes all the difference!

Here's a crazy thing: You can't judge the foundation from the outside of the house. You can only judge from inside, and then only by digging in the basement. You can't judge, but an earthquake, storm, or flood will judge. So, they built great structures on a bad foundation and great was the fall of them.

You might wonder: "Why would any ever build on sand or on consolidated soil?" Well, in San Francisco it was cheaper and easier. In Jesus' day it was also cheaper and easier. If you build on sand you can easily move the foundation to conform to the things you're building. But if you build on rock, this thing you're building must conform to the foundation—the rock.

Now you may say, "Hey Peter, thanks for the valuable lesson on geophysics and mechanical engineering, but why are you telling us this?" I'm telling you because we are preaching through the parables.

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 7, Jesus concludes his message with this parable:

Matthew 7:24-27

*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man that built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does **not** do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and **great** was the fall of it.*

*"Everyone who hears these words and **does** them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Now, that seems straightforward enough: Jesus has just climbed a mountain and expanded God's law and will now embark on a journey, just like Moses climbed Mount Sinai, received God's law, and embarked on a journey. Only Moses, in his lifetime, didn't arrive at his destination, for although he knew *about* the good he did not *do* the good.

There was a scandal. Do you remember the scandal?

It wasn't an affair. It didn't involve money or an email. It was something you couldn't judge from the outside: Moses developed a bad attitude toward a rock. Weird huh?

Well, Matthew is comparing Moses and Jesus. The name Jesus is just the Greekicized and the Anglicized form of the name Joshua. It is Joshua who finally leads Israel into the Promised Land where Solomon, son of David, builds the house of God on the rock—the foundation stone—on Mount Zion.

Jesus says, *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

"These words" are somehow like a rock,
And we all know that Jesus is The Word,
And all creation is like what that Word does.

In Romans 1:20 Paul writes that God's invisible attributes have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been done or made-*poiema*." It's a word used only twice in Scripture. It's based on the word, *poieo*, "to do" or "to make." That's the word used in this parable. Well, God's Word does, or makes, *poiema*. It's where we get our English word poem. God's creation is a poem. He speaks words and beauty happens, creation happens.

So Jesus teaches that a wise man does-*poieo*-the word, and his house is like a *poiema*, and that *poiema* must be reality itself. So you see, it's not like God is a stickler for rules, It's just that reality is a manifestation of God's word and you have a Father that would like you to live in reality.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does-poiei them is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock."

The thing you build your house on is the thing you trust. Trust is faith. Since the Reformation, Protestants have been caught up in a silly debate over what it is that saves us: Is it faith or works? When the correct answer is God: God is salvation. God saves you by speaking Faith into you, which manifests as good works, beautiful deeds-that is, *poiema*.

You are saved by grace through faith, and faith means trust. If you trust someone you take their advice, their word, and at least try to do what they say. If you don't, you are just lying about faith.

God wants faith and it manifests as works or maybe I should say *poiema*-a poem-a masterpiece-his workmanship. Paul uses another word that is usually translated "works" and that's *ergon*. It's where we get our word energy. A machine can do *ergon*, but only a person can make a poem.

So Jesus says, *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does (poieo) them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Common sense would say, "OK just *do* the words of Jesus and your house will never crumble and fall." So, what are these words that we might do them? They are the Sermon on the Mount- Matthew 5 - 7. So let's scan them quickly right now. You can hear them, do them, and then get on with your life, knowing that your house won't crumble like a house on sand in an earthquake.

Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount, the juicy bits:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..."

"Blessed are the meek..."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..."

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

But if you need mercy and righteousness, it seems like you're not "doing the words."
"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account..."
That's a little weird because that sounds like a house crumbling...already!
"Blessed are," describes what people are, not what they should do, like a law.

Matthew 5:17-20

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (i.e. what I should do). I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them...Therefore, whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

So, now Jesus expounds the law and calls "these words" his words.

Matthew 5:21

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not murder." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery, but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

You have heard it was said, "An eye for an eye," but I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. But I say to you, Love your enemies (that'd be like ISIS and your mother in law) and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (PERFECT!)

Beware of practicing your righteousness before...people in order to be seen by them...

And you're one of those people; listen to this next line:

But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.

That means: be perfectly good, without consciously trying to be good.

Pray then like this:

- *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
- *If you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

And:

- *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...*
(Like property, bank accounts, retirement accounts).
- *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.*
- *No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money.*
- *Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life... Be like grass.*
(Don't hang on to stuff and don't worry about losing stuff!)
- *Judge not, that you be not judged...*
- *Ask and it shall be given you. Seek and you will find...*
- *Enter by the narrow gate*

Matthew 7:21

*Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does** the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day, many will say to me, "Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.*

Now our verse:

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

So, there you go: Don't worry; just do that, and your house won't fall!

Now, unless you're a complete idiot or mentally ill, you'll say, "No one has ever done all of that. So, everyone's house is going to fall! No one has ever done that, except Jesus!"

And...

If I ever did do that, or even tried to do that, my house would not look like this:

[Image of a beautiful mansion]

It, and I, would look more like this:

[Image of Christ on the cross]

That raises a fascinating question: Jesus does what Jesus says, but does his house fall? Well he actually didn't have a house, and yet he did say, *"Destroy this house (or temple) and I'll rebuild it in three days."*

We are his house and his body. That's a bit confusing.

Well, if only Jesus truly does what Jesus says, should we even try to do what Jesus says? If our houses are all set to fall or have fallen, and only Jesus fully does what Jesus says, why should we even try to do what Jesus says?

When my firstborn was a toddler, I tried to teach him how to walk and he fell, and he fell, and he fell, and one day he said to me, "Father, I know that I'm going to fall again, who has not fallen? And I know that you are a hard man intolerant of failure, so in deep humility I acknowledge my failure, and resolve to stay in bed the rest of my life."

Actually, he didn't say that. But when he'd fall, I'd say, "Walk to Daddy. Look at daddy. Come to Daddy." If he looked at his feet, he'd fall. But when he would look at me he started walking. He wouldn't see condemnation in my eyes but a promise: "You will walk." So, without convincing himself that he should try, he would try because he wanted to do my word. He would walk into the promise in my eyes.

Paul writes: "We see the glory of God in the face of Christ." "Looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith," writes the author of Hebrews: "Let us run."

He is the Word of God, and if we like the Word of God, we might hunger for His righteousness, and look to him for help, ask for help. And Jesus just preached: "*Seek and you will find. Ask and it will be given you.*"

Well, I'd say, "Come on Jon. Walk to Daddy," and he didn't hear condemnation; he heard a promise.

So, how do we hear the Word of God without feeling condemned by the Word of God and thus hating the Word of God, and not looking to the Word of God? How do we hear the law without hating the law? How do we build our house on the rock without hating the rock?

In our parable Jesus didn't say, "a rock," he said, "the rock," and that's very significant.

In Exodus 17, standing on Mount Sinai, when Moses received the law, written on the rock, God tells Moses to strike the rock. When he does, Psalm 78:15, God breaks the rock and living water flows from the rock saving Moses and Israel and it's all good.

But, almost forty years later, in numbers 20, many miles from the previous location of the rock, God tells Moses to take the staff and **speak** to the rock. The rock has moved; he says, "Speak to the rock," but Moses struck the rock as if he were the Lord of the rock and could push the rock around to conform to what he was building.

Well, God still breaks the rock and water still flows out and saves, but God said to Moses, "Because you didn't believe in me you shall not bring this people into the land." It was the same thing Moses had done before. It looked like the same from the outside but was different at the foundation. Moses had heard the word but couldn't *do* the word. Just as Moses had received the law after forty years he didn't do the law. I bet he felt condemned by the law and was angry at the law, like he seemed to be angry at the rock.

Well, because of his attitude toward the rock, he wasn't founded on the rock and his house, actually all Israel, fell in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb his friend.

I Corinthians 10:4 Saint Paul writes, "*Our fathers drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.*" No wonder God got weird. The rock was Christ, but Moses didn't know Christ, at least not until he stands on the Mount of Transfiguration with Christ 1500 years later, in the Promised Land.

Well, you know you can come to Christ as if he were a law that you could work, and thereby earn his favor. That is, you can come to his table thinking you deserve his mercy and if you do, you will drink judgment on yourself, even death. Or you can come to the table in gratitude that Jesus, the Rock, was broken for you, and you will drink living water, the river of life.

The Rock doesn't change we change relative to it.

Throughout the Old Testament God is called The Rock, and in the New Testament Jesus is called the rock. You can receive Jesus' words as law—knowledge of the good that you yourself can fulfill and be proud of fulfilling. You can receive his words as law, or a promise. You can receive God's Word as something you *must do* or as a *promise of what God will do* in you, as if you are what God does—his *poiema*.

Ephesians 2:10 is another place *poiema* is used. Paul writes, "You are saved by grace through faith, and this is not your own doing it is the gift of God, not of works (not of *ergon*)...", for you are God's *poiema*; you are his poem.¹

So Jesus says, "*Whoever hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*"

The next time Jesus says, "rock" in the Gospel of Matthew, he's talking to a man he nicknamed Rocky—that's *Petros* in Greek, Peter in English. Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ and Jesus says, "You are Rocky, and on this rock I will build my church, God's house, *I will build.*" I Peter 2:4-8²

It's like Jesus is the wise man who builds his house, the wise man who does God's Word. He does God's Word, and he built God's house with Peter, on himself, in Peter. Think it through:

His words are like the rock.

The rock is in Peter.

Jesus has spoken himself into Peter.

Faith in Peter is like Jesus in Peter.

¹ You are the manifestation of His Word. See? Your ego, your pride must interrupt the poem, the poem that you truly are.

² Later Peter writes to the church thing, you are living stones being built into a spiritual house and Christ is the cornerstone.

Peter is far from perfect, but at least for a moment, he was perfect and he did Jesus' words like God's *poiema*. Once, on the Sea of Galilee, in a storm, Jesus walked by the disciples in a boat. He walked on water and told them not to be afraid, and then he bids Peter to walk to him on the water. And Peter did Jesus' words. Just like Jonathan would walk to me. When Peter looked at Jesus he did his word, as if he were standing on rock, not water. But the moment Peter looked at his feet, or the wind and waves, he sank and cried out, " Lord save! - Yeshua"

Peter failed, and Jesus didn't condemn Peter; he saved Peter. And Peter still failed.

At one point, Peter boldly declared, "Though all deny you, I will never deny you." That night, his house utterly crumbled as the cock crowed, and Jesus looked at him with the very same eyes and Peter realized he had just denied Jesus three times -" I don't know him. I don't know him. I don't know him."

His house fell and *great* was the fall of it. Then Jesus built his house on Peter and with Peter. Jesus knew Peter and his shame, and then Peter knew Jesus, and Jesus built his house with Peter.

It's like we all have two houses.

One that we build that must fall.

And one that God builds with us that is eternal.

It's like Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10

"For we are his poiema created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them—(that we should live in them)."

So when we hear Christ's words and do them, we must not be proud but grateful because Jesus, the wise man, is building his house with us, on him; as if the rock moved and found us, and started speaking us into existence.

He said, *"Apart from me you can do nothing,"* as if we are the manifestation of God's Word in Christ, as if we are His temple - his house.

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house the workers labor in vain.

So Jesus is the Rock, and Jesus builds the house. So you might ask, "Does that mean I do nothing?" No, it actually means you do everything! You hear Jesus' words and do them, like a poem or a dance or a toddler walking to his father, not because you know about the words but because The Word knows you.

Jesus says, *"Whoever hears these words of mine and does them,"* and these are the words right before he says that:

Matthew 7:21

*Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does** the will of my father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."*

Now pay close attention,

He just taught us doing the Father's will is being known by Jesus.

So, have you *let* Jesus know you?

What does Jesus not know? Never knew?

The false you.

The you that you can construct to impress him.

And what does Jesus know?

The real you, the naked you.

In Scripture, there are two ways of knowing.

One results in death, and the other results in pregnancy.

It's fascinating:

Moses receives the law - knowledge of the good - and couldn't do the good and build God's house.

It's Joshua who leads God's people into the Promised Land where they build a house on the rock called the foundation stone on Mount Zion.

In Joshua 24, Joshua gathers all the Israelites and says, in verse 15, "*Choose this day whom you will serve... As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*" But Joshua said to the people, "*You are not able to serve the Lord.*"

Think about that! To me it sounds just like Jesus at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. The only way you can hear these words and do them, the only way you can serve the Lord is if you're part of Joshua's house, like a son or a bride, for then you won't hear his word as condemnation but promise.

Jesus summed up the whole law saying, "*You **will** love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and you **will** love your neighbor as yourself.*" "You WILL."

Do you hear a threat or a promise?

As long as you think you're the builder of your house,

You'll hear the word as condemnation and build a false self.

But if you hear the word as a promise, your life will begin to look like God's poem.

As for me and my house: *"We will, we will, we will serve the Lord,"* says Joshua.

So, how do we become part of his house? Well, Joshua must choose to adopt you into his father's house, or marry you as his bride and make you his body. And the gospel is that he has chosen that and done that. When you see that and receive that, you will stop trying to push the foundation around, and you will come to rest on the Rock—your foundation. You will stop building your life in faithlessness and fear and be built up in Grace, on Grace, with Grace.

As a child, you look into your Father's eyes shining in the face of Christ and begin walking, not because you see condemnation but because you believe the promise. And like a bride on her honeymoon night, you'll surrender your house and stop hiding your shame. And in your place of shame the great Bridegroom will know you.

His Word is seed, and the seed will grow and bear fruit, and that's how he builds his house. So, to hear his words and do them looks less like this:

[Image of a construction worker looking at blueprints in front of an unfinished house]

And more like this:

[Image of a pregnant belly]

We will all have to surrender the house that we have built in order to become the house that God has built.

Some of you have very little houses or no house, but you yourself are a mansion built by God. Some of you have very big houses and yet you feel homeless. The Bible doesn't condemn big houses, unless you think they're yours and use them to keep people out. And I need to issue this warning: The greater the house you think you have built the greater will be the fall of it.

No matter what, you must lose your life in order to find it. You must lose the house you have built to become the house God builds, and that's actually according to plan, for God reveals our new house on the ashes of our old one.

The Jews were led to build Jerusalem and the temple. It was great, and great was the fall of it. And then, on that spot, the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven not built by human hands but built by God's hands with humans—living stones. She is the temple, and she is the Bride.

So Jesus said, *"All who hear these words of mine, and do them, will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock."*

All week, I kept asking, "What am I trying to say?" Then it became dreadfully apparent to me, "Jesus, I think I know what you're trying to say through me":

Twenty-three years ago, I moved back to Colorado to build my dream house! Lookout Mountain Community Church was my dream. It grew from less than one hundred to a

few thousand in just 15 years. We built an awesome new multi million-dollar facility and immediately had three services each weekend. It was a building, nothing wrong with it.

Soon, I had published two books that sold at Barnes and Noble. I had several agents and publishers wanting to work with me. We hosted the General Assembly of our denomination and all were impressed with me or envious of me. It was my dream. I had mapped it out in my head since Seminary. I had to use my knowledge of good church and bad church, and although it was very hard work, it went according to plan. It was my dream. That doesn't mean it wasn't also in some way God's dream, but it was my dream, & I remember thinking, "I'm set. This house will never fall." That is: "My house will never fall. They need me and this is a great house!"

I built my house, and meanwhile, God was building me. I had always preached expositional sermons, and I began to fall more and more in love with Jesus and His Word. I began to preach more and more of his words. On December 16th 2001 I read the words speaking from the throne in Revelation 21:5 "*Behold I make all things new.*" I said, "*Well I guess he does.*" Then, for six years I preached and found that statement over and over in various forms, and nothing to contradict it in any conclusive way.

I began to realize that we religious leaders had stopped building on the foundation, which is Christ, who is God is Salvation—God's promise, and instead we had started believing, we are salvation, and building with our knowledge of good and evil—the law.

God is salvation.

We are not salvation.

God is the foundation.

We are not the foundation.

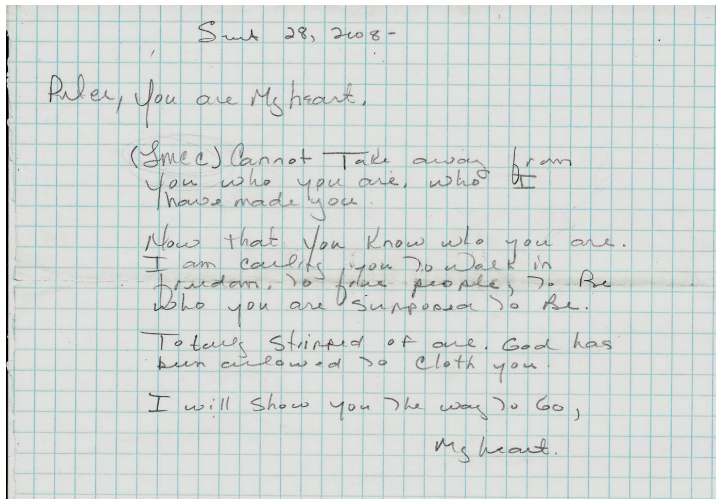
To make a long story short, just when I thought my great house would never fall it began to miraculously fall, and great, great, great was the fall of it!

I was presented with a choice, and so were many of you. I was told that I had to publicly renounce the word I preached or lose my house.

I thought my house was great and so great was the fall of it.

Ten months later, on September 28th 2008, I was insanely depressed and sitting in a retreat center in Michigan next to my wife. Suddenly, she grabbed a pencil and started writing, and I knew God was speaking to her. I kept it in a frame behind my desk.

This is what she wrote:



Peter, you are my heart.

They (LMCC) cannot take away from you who you are, who I have made you.

Obviously they can take away from me who I have made myself to be. That can be taken away and will be taken away... he continues:

Now that you know who you are, I am calling you to walk in freedom, to free people, to be who you are supposed to be: totally stripped of all, God has been allowed to clothe you. I will show you the way to go—my heart.

See? I think he's saying something like this to all of us:

“They can, and will, take away from you all that you have made yourself to be. But nothing can take away from you who I have made you to be that is eternal.”

We make ourselves with pride, fear, arrogance, and desperation. God makes us with grace. When we make ourselves, our flesh is in control. When God makes us, we are being controlled by love. God is love, a love poem, and we are his *poema*.

Well, like I was saying, Lookout Mountain Community Church was my dream. And the sanctuary was not my dream. It was not my plan; I literally felt crucified. It was not the way I would have done things, and still isn't the way I would do things.

For seven years I've wondered if we would still be here the following month. The Sanctuary was not my dream, but I believe The Sanctuary is God's dream: not a group of people that use their knowledge of God to build things for God, but a group of people that are known by God, and therefore, know God and delight in His Word and so are built by him into his house.

The Sanctuary is not my dream. I believe The Sanctuary is God's dream. So, we're not the dreamers but the dream, and not the builders but what God is building. We are built

when we hear the word not as a threat, but as a promise. It's called the Gospel - God is salvation, in a word: Jesus. He is the Rock.

For seven years, I've wondered if we'd be here the following month, and God continues to provide. This building has been great, but we've really been struggling to afford to rent it, and on September 30th our lease runs out.

For almost two years, we've been looking for another facility and haven't found anything suitable. Just two months ago, a member of our building committee did find something. A few weeks ago, two of our members offered to guarantee a loan and arrange for us to purchase this building well under its fair market value. Because we needed to move quickly, this past week, the board voted unanimously to take them up on their incredible offer, and so, forty-eight hours ago we purchased this building:

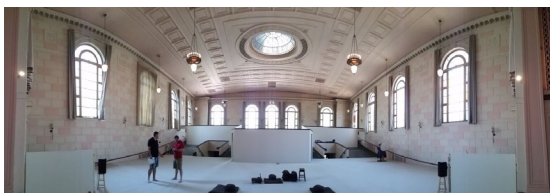


It's on Speer just west of Federal; you can walk from here. We plan to move in on October 1st, seven years after Susan had that word from Jesus.

We have been paying \$11,000-12,000 dollars a month in rent and utilities for this building. We expect to pay about \$6,500 dollars a month in mortgage and insurance payments for the new one.

We are paying less for this building than we've spent on rent over the last eight years. If you are interested in details, we are having an informational meeting in the Youth Room Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

It's an incredible building,



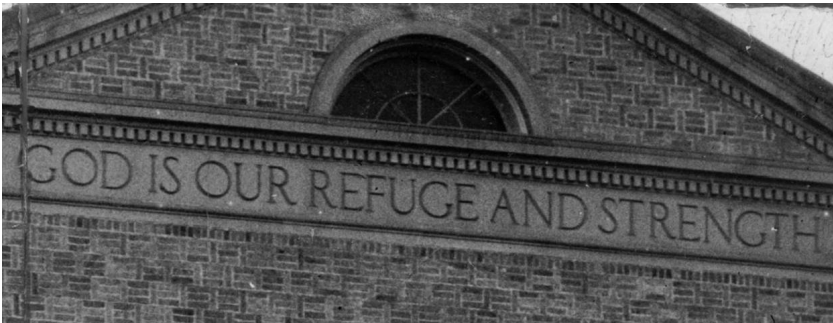
And we've included money for necessary renovations. Currently, it's the Zen Center so the floor needs to be changed amongst other things.

We will always be a church without walls because the building isn't The Sanctuary; we are the sanctuary; we are the church, and we are called beyond our walls so if people ask why did you buy this building? Let this be your answer: "Because it's freaking cold in December; God provided this building to keep the sanctuary warm."

Originally this church was built by the Church of Christ Scientist around 1920, which is not to be confused with Scientology.



It is an absolutely gorgeous and amazing building that we are purchasing for an amazing price! But this is my favorite part of the building:



It is written in the rock across the top from Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and strength.* and that means this building is not our refuge and strength.

So, if it comes down to a choice: Lose the house or step off the rock, let's plan to lose the house. If not, great, great, great will be the fall of it: *"But everyone who hears the word and does it will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Communion

So, Jesus-the Rock, took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body..." And he broke it. God broke it, and life came out, living water came out: "Take and eat. And he took the cup saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

Drink of it all of you, and do this in remembrance of me." Look: the Rock has moved all the way from Mount Sinai to Mount Zion, and to Mount Calvary to you.

Come to the rock. Receive His Word and be built into his house like living stones on the cornerstone.

Benediction

Take a moment to surrender to his design. Your whole life is a building. You have been working on it since you were a little kid, maybe since you found out certain things were good and other things were bad and you decided you were going to build the good. You've been building and building and I'm guessing you are worried that it's going to fall. Well, I have news for you: It will fall. We are all going to die. Don't hang onto your house too tightly; don't think whatever you are building is the greatest thing in this world because then great will be the fall of it.

We are all building a house. It will all crumble and it will all fall so just surrender your house. You can surrender the house, for you have another house, which is built by your Father and it will not fall. He wants you to appreciate that house. In fact, you can begin to live in that house right now.

Your Father is love, and with his Word he builds that house. It's a poem, and it's you surrendered to his love. That house is indestructible. When you believe love and live love, you're living in that house.

The whole world is upside down. The things we think are permanent are not permanent at all. The things we think are transitory are not. Love is not transitory. It is the foundation of all things so surrender your house, begin to live in God's house, and you'll begin to act and look like his poem!

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.