

AUTOPSY • Week 5: Probability or Promise?

Daily Briefing • Day 3 of 5 • The Crisis Still Goes Better With God

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

Sunday's sermon established that earthly reward for righteousness is a probability in this life but a promise in the life to come. Today we press into what that probability looks like on your worst days. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, keep me from being discouraged by the difficulties and trials of this life. Help me to know that building my life on Your Word and working out Your design by the power of Your Holy Spirit is still better than facing those same difficulties with a life built on my whims or worldly wisdom. Help me to understand Your Word rightly and to obey it fully. I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

Here is today's Big Idea: when you build according to God's design, even your bad days are better than they would have been if you had not. Storm still comes. The Beliefs + Behaviors = Outcomes formula does not guarantee exemption to any of us. But it does guarantee that the foundation you built before the storm arrived will determine how well you weather it. That is not a spiritual platitude. It is a practical reality.

Four examples make it concrete. The person who has been a faithful steward of their health arrives at a medical storm with more options and a body that can handle treatment. The person who has built financial margin, working diligently, living below their means, and avoiding debt, arrives at a job loss with actual dollars in the bank rather than compounding pressure. The person who learned sexual self-control before marriage arrives at a dry or difficult season in marriage with tools to resist temptation toward adultery and pornography. And the person who has built a foundation of Scripture, prayer, and Christian community arrives at a terminal medical diagnosis with a peace that does not make logical sense and people who actually show up. In every case, the same storm hit the faithful disciple. But they weathered it with a totally different foundation.

Jesus closes the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27 with two houses and one storm. Earlier in that same sermon, in Matthew 5 and 6, He addressed lust and adultery, anger and reconciliation, money and anxiety. The Sermon on the Mount is not a collection of inspirational thoughts. It is a clear revelation of the Designer's design. And He closes it with a question about foundation: are you building your life on what He has said, or are you hearing it and walking away unchanged? James 1:22-25 names what happens when the hearing stops short of doing. The person who hears without doing is like someone who looks at their face in a mirror and immediately forgets what they saw. The hearing without the doing produces nothing that stands when the pressure comes.

READ & MEDITATE

Matthew 7:24-27

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And 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. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.'

James 1:22-25

'But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes

away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Read Matthew 7:24-27. How many similarities and how many differences do you see between the two builders? Then read James 1:22-25 and notice what James calls the person who hears without doing, and what he says the doer receives.

REFLECT

When you hear God’s Word, it reshapes your beliefs. When you act on those beliefs, it changes your behaviors. That is the Beliefs + Behaviors = Outcomes formula this series has been built on. The hearing without the doing breaks the formula at the second step and leaves the foundation as sand.

Fill in the blanks from James 1:22:

“But be _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)*

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

In which of the four areas from the teaching, health, finances, sexuality, or faith community, is the gap between hearing and doing most present in your own life right now? Name it specifically before moving on.

Jesus locates the rock foundation in a specific practice. Not faith in general. Not good intentions. A specific practice.

Fill in the blank from Matthew 7:24:

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and _____ them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)*

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

Find the exact phrase Jesus uses in verse 24 to describe the person who builds on the rock. Write it here word for word:

The doing is what constitutes the rock. The hearing alone produces the sand. Now look at the four examples from the teaching section again.

Which example most directly describes the consequence you would face if a storm hit the area where you are currently hearing without doing?

Your bad days will be better if you build now than if you wait until the storm is already on you.

What is one concrete step you could take this week to move from hearing to doing in the specific area you identified? Name it specifically enough that someone else could verify whether you did it by next Sunday.

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Galatians 6:9 from memory:
