

He who does the will of My Father Matthew 7:13-29, L.D. 32 by Rev. Tom Aicken

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Jesus answers that question, v.21, “he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” He is not talking here about salvation by works, but He is not talking about salvation without works either, because the faith that saves is the faith that works (see Eph. 2:8-10). Where there is faith, true faith, there will always be good works. Heidelberg Catechism, Q’s 86 & 87.

Have you entered the narrow gate that leads to life? There is only one such gate, it is Christ Himself, and, even if you have entered, there are still dangers you need to watch out for. (1) You need to beware of false prophets. But there is also another danger you need to watch out for: (2) You need to beware of hearing the truth, but not acting on it (see James 1:22; 2:17).

The Lord Jesus illustrates this latter point by telling us about two builders, one wise and one foolish. We can all appreciate the importance of building a house right the first time, but in this case, since the house he is building is his own life, the builder has only one opportunity to get it right. How, then, will he build it, committing himself to the blueprint of the Master Builder, or will he choose to go his own way? Sadly, most people build their house, their own life, without consulting the proper blueprint, the Word of God, or even have any real plan for what they are doing. To them, it’s as if they should be able to get it right as they go along.

There are 3 features in our Lord’s parable which are particularly noteworthy:

(1) We need to consider the foundation upon which each man builds his house. The wise man builds his house upon a rock, knowing full well that the wet season is coming and that this riverbed can be a torrent of water at times, bringing massive flooding and leaving great destruction in its path. This rock is Christ Jesus Himself. To build on Him, though, is not just to hear what He says, but to hear and obey, v.24. The foolish man, not looking ahead, builds his house on sand, which is to say that he is building on something other than Christ.

(2) We need to consider also the test to which each house is subjected. The same storms can hit everybody – storms of temptation and trial and every kind of sorrow – and so we need to be prepared. For the man whose life is built on Christ, and he is doing the will of God, he is able to face these troubles and not be undone by them. For the man without Christ, little does he know until these storms hit just how helpless he is and the peril that is about to befall him.

(3) We need to consider finally the results of this test. When we are looking to Christ, drawing on that grace which is sufficient for us, He more than compensates for all the troubles that afflict us. For those who are not looking to Christ, however, the final judgment takes them by surprise, and it’s horrible. What is the foundation for your life? Are you looking to the Lord Jesus Christ? Is yours a faith that works, that seeks to serve and please Him? This is the will of the Father in heaven, and is it not worth giving up everything for that?!