

Short Stories - Epic Truths

Summer 2018

"The tie between information and action has been severed. Information is now a commodity that can be bought and sold, or used as a form of entertainment, or worn like a garment to enhance one's status. It comes indiscriminately, directed at no one in particular, disconnected from usefulness; we are glutted with information, drowning in information, have no control over it, don't know what to do with it."

Neil Postman

True faith is belief put into practice.

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

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 winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

(Matthew 7:24–27 ESV)

Reality 1
We are all building a life.

“To be human is to be on a quest. To live is to be embarked on a kind of unconscious journey toward a destination of your dreams. As Blaise Pascal put it in his famous wager: “You have to wager. It is not up to you, you are already committed.” You can’t not bet your life on something. You can’t not be headed somewhere. We live leaning forward, bent on arriving at the place we long for. The place we unconsciously strive toward is what ancient philosophers of habit called our telos — our goal, our end.

But the telos we live toward is not something that we primarily know or believe or think about; rather, our telos is what we want, what we long for, what we crave. It is less an ideal that we have ideas about and more a vision of “the good life” that we desire. It is a picture of flourishing that we imagine in a visceral, often - unarticulated way — a vague yet attractive sense of where we think true happiness is found.”

James Smith

Reality 2

We are one of two types of builders:
wise or foolish

Your house was a symbol of your
life as a whole.

Similarities

1. Both have the *same blueprints* for construction.
2. Both *build* a house.
3. Both *endure a storm*.

Differences

1. One builder is *wise* and one builder is *foolish*.

Wise - φρόνιμος smart, thoughtful, prudent, enlightened

Foolish - μωρός "moron" or stupid, obstinate, rebel, fool, unenlightened

2. *Hears and does* (practices) and the other *hears and does not do* (does not practice) the teachings of Jesus.

Hear - ἀκούω – to pay attention to, listen, to learn, to gain knowledge

Does - ποιέω – do, keep, carry out, practice, commit, obey

3. One house *stood* and one house *fell* after the storm.

At what point are we able to tell the difference
between the builders?

Reality 3

Storms reveal the foundation of your life.

You will know what you have build your life upon after the storm hits!

To build a life that lasts, we must fully follow
Jesus and his teachings.

True discipleship means “learner or apprentice.” To apprentice under Jesus means to learn, embody, and practice his way of life.

Truly I say to you, whoever *believes* in me
will also *do* the works that I do.

(John 14:12 ESV)

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?”

(James 2:14–20 ESV)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
(John 14:15 ESV)

To build a life capable of withstanding any storm, we must know Jesus and obey him.

Edit

Alarm



04:20

Alarm



04:25

Alarm



04:30

Alarm



04:35

Alarm



World Clock



Alarm



Bedtime



Stopwatch



Timer

Jesus doesn't just want to inform your life, he wants to transform your life!

To build a life that lasts, we must fully follow Jesus and his teachings.

My...

Foundation is unknown.

My...

Foundation is unknown.

Foundation is what I have.

My...

Foundation is unknown.

Foundation is what I have.

Foundation is what I do.

My...

Foundation is unknown.

Foundation is what I have.

Foundation is what I do.

Foundation is what others say or think about me.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone*, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

(Ephesians 2:19–21 ESV)

Short Stories - Epic Truths

Summer 2018