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Lesson 1

Firm Foundation

Matthew 5:14-16 ~ *“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*

I. What is a Lighthouse?

- A. Keeps ships from danger and points them to safety
- B. Always is consistent; never moves

*If we want to be a light to our friends, family, etc., we must first examine our foundation

II. The 2 Foundations

- If you were a lighthouse, why would you want a strong foundation?
 - if you don't have a strong foundation you will slip away and be destroyed
 - you are useless to others and no one will trust you
 - you are equally as much in danger as those you “want” to rescue

Set up story of Matthew 7:24

A. The “sensible” man (Matthew 7:24-25)

- 1. When everything went wrong, it still STOOD
- 2. Why did it stand? It was built on the ROCK

Question: What are some common storms that cause us to fall away from God?

- Satan will throw everything at you (tragedies, false doctrine, confusion, etc.)

What 2 things did the “sensible” man do with Jesus’ teachings?

- 1. listened to them
- 2. acted on them

B. The “foolish man”

- 1. When everything went wrong, it COLLAPSED...“and it’s collapse was great”
- 2. Why did it fall? It was built on the SAND

What 2 things did the “sensible” man do with Jesus’ teachings?

- 1. listened to them
- 2. didn’t act on them

*Discuss about how the Israelites listened to more of God’s Word than anyone else (God, through Moses, told them the same things over and over from Exodus to Deuteronomy). But, just listening wasn’t enough. How is it that these people are a people with so many misfortunes? ...they listened, but that was it. It was in their head, but not lived out through their heart.

*We must have a solid foundation by being anchored to “the rock”.

Small group discussion

Talk About It:

1. Why is God's Word referred to as "The Rock"?
2. Why is everything else we rely on considered "sand"?
3. Why is it important that we are firm in God's Word before we are used as a light for God?

Think About It:

1. Are there any areas right now that feel like a storm in my life?
2. How will leaning on God and His Word help me get through it?

Here are some other verses on this topic to read and discuss:

1. Hebrews 13:7-9
2. James 1:2-4
3. James 1:22-24
4. Psalm 18:1-3
5. Psalm 40:2
6. Psalm 61:2

Take It Home:

1. Have I made the first step in having a solid foundation by beginning a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. Am I continuing to build a solid foundation, through spending time in God's Word, that God can use for me to be a light?