

Prestonwood Connection

#10 Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus

A Story About a Foundation

Luke 20

April 26, 2006 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message, A Story About Authority]

Well, it's sure good to see you tonight and to be home and to be with you. I was in Florida last week with our pastor at a wonderful rally for PowerPoint. I actually had been planning to be down there any way at the end of the week, a... last week, because I'm on the board at a University there, Palm Beach Atlantic University and had a wonderful time being a part of that, but it's great to be back with you. I prayed for the Connection Service, thankful for Neal Jeffery who stood here last week and shared and led and I'm thankful every week for Rick Briscoe and this wonderful praise and instrumental team that lead us. Would you just help me one more time to say thank you to them [applause] and a... they are like you, they're busy working and trying to get here even earlier than you get here, to get ready and to lead us and they always do such a great job and a... I'm so very thankful for them and for a... the blessing that they are to my life each and every week.

You know it has been said that truth is stranger than fiction. Truth can be stranger than fiction and I was reminded of that when I saw an article last week that simply was titled:

"82 year old gets \$114 ticket for slow crossing."

[slight congregation laughter] It says here that:

"In Los Angeles an 82 year old woman received a \$114 ticket for taking too long to cross the street. Mavis Coil, said she began shuffling with her cane across Foothill Blvd. in San Fernando Valley when the light was green, but was unable to make it to the other side before it turned red. And so a motorcycle officer saw her, stopped her and wrote her a ticket for \$114 because she didn't get through the intersection, on foot, fast enough."

It was a very interesting thing, it caused a...well...another one of the uproars out in the valley, out in a... Los Angeles. It says that:

"Los Angeles police sergeant, Mike Zabowsky, of the Valley Traffic Division, said, 'Police are cracking down on people who are improperly crossing streets, because there's been an increase in pedestrian

accidents, it's been above normal.'"

And so he said he couldn't comment on Coil's ticket other than to say that:

"It was her word against the officer's word."

But he did say this, he said I'd rather not have...he said:

"I'd rather not have angry pedestrians..."

But he said:

"I'd also rather have them be alive."

And so obviously there was a bit of a controversy about a police officer who would write a ticket to an elderly woman who wasn't able to move across the intersection at a fast enough pace. And, of course, at the core of this issue and of this controversy, is an issue of judgment and an issue of authority. And I bring that story to you tonight about the issue of judgment and the issue of authority because that is the very issue that we face in the story that I want us to look at tonight from God's Word in the book of Luke, the gospel of Luke, chapter 20 and so I wanna invite you to open your Bible there because this particular a..., story that we're gonna look at tonight is a story, in some ways where the truth of it is stranger than some of the fiction. It's a story where we need to see and to know the truth of what Jesus was saying to His disciples and what He's saying to us today and in particular we need to deal again with this issue of the authority, the authority of Scripture and the authority of Jesus Christ. In Luke, chapter 20, the Bible tells us that:

¹It happened on one of those days, that as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, that the chief priests and scribes together with the elders confronted Him ²and spoke to Him, saying, "Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things?..."

Verse 2 says it Luke 20:2:

...by what authority...

Now, the context of this passage of Scripture is important, there was a context of the story I read to you. The context was a specific intersection, at a specific time, with a specific person and a specific timeframe involving the woman who didn't get across the street. And in much the same way there's a context to the story that we're gonna look at tonight. The story that brought about a challenge to Jesus' authority about the things that He said and the things that He taught. The immediate context, if you were to just scan some of the subheadings of your Scripture, would tell you that one was the Triumphal Entry. Jesus has entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey and He has celebrated with all of the a..., with all of the...the joy and the praise and

the acclamation of the people and so that had been an issue. And then just before this time of teaching Jesus had cleansed the temple. He'd gone in and taken charge and moved out the money changers in the temple and He had taken a very aggressive posture and sort of upset the apple cart, if you will, literally a..., in terms of what was going on in the temple at that day. And then Jesus has...was in the current context of teaching again and so with all of these as a part of the backdrop, the background, the context of what He had to say, the Pharisees, the chief priests, the scribes said:

...by what authority do you say these things?..."

And so what Jesus did was that He answered them with a story. He didn't simply assert, I'm in charge here! He gave them a story and in that story He helped them to understand something about His authority. And the story actually begins in verse 9. So look at Luke 20 in verse 9:

⁹Then He began to tell the people this parable: "A certain man planted a vineyard, he leased it to vinedressers,..."

That is to tenant farmers.

"...and he went to a far country for a long time. ¹⁰Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹And again he..."

That is the owner of this farm.

"...sent another servant and they beat him also and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed.. ¹²And again he sent a third; and they wounded him and cast him out. ¹³And then the owner of the vineyard said, 'what shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.' ¹⁴But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵So they cast him out of the vineyard and they killed him. Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy the vinedressers and give the vineyard to others." And ~~when they said~~...when they heard that they said, "Certainly not!" ¹⁷And He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'? ¹⁸Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

A rather lengthy passage of Scripture, but I needed to read the whole story to you so that you get the context and the background. And whenever we approach a passage of Scripture whether it's here in this context or whether it's you at home reading your Bible or studying a portion of Scripture, there's a very important process that we all need to go through to maximize our understanding of a passage of Scripture.

The first question that we always need to ask is this question: What did it mean then? What was the context, what did it mean then? Then we need to ask the question: What does it mean now? What does this passage of Scripture mean right now. And then the last thing that we need to ask and to answer whenever we study the Scripture is to always ask the question: What does it mean to me personally? What did it mean then? What does it mean now? What does it mean to me personally? And that's really sort of the format that I want us to take and to look at as we investigate this story tonight of this event, challenging the authority of Jesus and bringing us to an understanding of what this story means to us tonight and I trust that you're gonna walk away with a great sense of confidence that this is a story that God has given you and me that will make a difference in our lives today.

So the **FIRST QUESTION IS WHAT DID IT MEAN THEN?** Literally, if I could say it this way and state it positively, I would say that it's important for us all to understand that it was **A STORY WITH A PROPHETIC PURPOSE**. It was a story with prophetic purpose. Now, we don't immediately connect with this story the way that those hearers connected with that story. Now, if I say to you that tonight American Idol's on and they're gonna go down to 5, you can connect with that story. Okay? You understand that's a big event going on in our culture, you kinda know the faces, you know the names, some of you do, you know a little bit about what's goin on, you know who's gonna say something and do something tonight. We've got a context on that, we know what American Idol is, but when we're reading about vineyards and vinedressers that's a little bit out there for us. But, let me tell you about their context, for the Pharisees and the chief priests who heard Jesus speaking they immediately knew that this was a connection to the prophet Isaiah and in Isaiah, chapter 5, the Bible makes a link between the nation of Israel and a vineyard. Literally, I don't have time to take you there, but Isaiah 5:2 simply says that God made Israel a vine...a choice vine and a vineyard through which He was going to bless all of the nations of the world and so when Jesus started talking about a vine owner and a vineyard and putting people in charge of that vineyard, they understood He was connecting what He was saying to a prophecy in the book of Isaiah, chapter 5. Why did they know it? Because they were religious people. They knew the context of the Old Testament. That was a part of their day, their hour, their culture. But, that wasn't all, He started by making the connection with the vineyard in Isaiah, chapter 5, but He ended this story by specifically quoting another passage of Scripture and it was Psalm 118...Psalm 118 and verse 22:

The stone that the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

Now, again, what about this stone, what about the builders? We don't really know that context. But, let me tell you this, they knew the context, because for every religious person, for every Jew, Psalm 118 was a Messianic Psalm. Whenever they would have feasts, whenever they would have holidays, they knew that whenever they were referring to this portion of Scripture that they were referring to a specific prophecy of the Messiah, that the Messiah would come and that the Messiah was going to

come to be a part of the building of what God was going to do on the earth and there was only one such stone and that stone was going to be the Messiah. So when Jesus starts relating in this story that the Son is the Messiah and He's the stone and He's referring all of that to Himself they started getting, well spiritually, ticked off. They were royally mad. In fact if you'll look down here it says in verse 19, don't miss this:

And the chief priests and the scribes in that very hour sought to lay hands on Him, but they feared the people—for they knew that He had spoken this parable against them.

You see this is between Palm Sunday, the triumphal entry and Good Friday, the day that Jesus would be crucified. They're already ready to lay hands on Jesus because He has just confirmed everything that they're going to accuse Him of; that He claims to be the Messiah, that He claims to be the Son of God, that He claims to be the One that was spoken of by the prophets. So that is the prophetic context in which Jesus was speaking these words and He made it clear that He wanted them to see themselves in the story and they did. So let me make it real clear, okay, let's break it down. Let me just put a chart up here so that you can see it and you can understand it. If you're lookin at the story, who is in the story?

GOD is the landowner.

ISRAEL, the nation, is the vineyard.

THE JEWISH LEADERS were the farmers, they were the ones who when the landowners sent servants to collect from the land and to be a part of the land, they were the ones who despised them, they were the ones who beat them and who cast them out. So who were those? Well, those were...

THE PROPHETS, the prophets were the ones who were the rejected servants who the landowner sent to His vineyard and so after they rejected the prophets, then the landowner sent...

HIS SON and it's interesting to note that the Bible says His Beloved Son. Does that kinda ring a bell in your ear? Do you remember what the Bible says happened when Jesus was baptized? He came up out of the Jordan and the Spirit of God descended on Him and there was a voice from heaven that said: [Matthew 3:17]

... "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Hear Him. You see right there that was in a reference to who Jesus is and then of course, not only His beloved Son, but we think of John 3:16:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...

His One and only, His beloved, His only begotten Son, this is exactly who Jesus was claiming Himself to be and exactly what they understood and so therefore the Bible says after they killed the son, that the vinedresser, that the owner, the landowner would remove the others and he would give the vineyard to...

OTHERS. And who are the others? The Gentiles, it's us, it's those of us who were brought in to the covenant of God by His grace and His mercy.

Now, it the same covenant by which both the Jew and the Gentile are received; it's all found in Jesus Christ. So this story was as though it were a microcosm of all of history. It was God's hand in history moving and working, trying to establish a nation, trying to accomplish His redemptive purpose, all of that happening and unfolding and that's what the story's all about. That's what it meant then. So that's important that we see that and that we understand it because the Son of God, Jesus, was the last and the final voice that He sent to this earth to proclaim truth to the Jew and to establish salvation for all of us.

So that brings us to the second thing, **WHAT DOES IT MEAN NOW?** Not only was does it mean then, but what does it mean now? And it is **A STORY WITH CONTEMPORARY CONSEQUENCE**. A story with contemporary consequence, in other words what God did in the past and in history has implication and application right now. And in that Jesus Christ came and fulfilled the plan and the purpose of God in redemption, as Messiah, God has established that it is through Christ and Christ alone that anyone can have a relationship with Him and can know Him. That...that's what the contemporary reality is. There's a consequence because of who Jesus is, the reality is today everything rises and falls on Jesus. It's Jesus; deal...no deal! That's really what it is.

Have you seen that show. Howie Mandel, you'd never recognize him, it's amazing. I'm catchin up with him though, any way, deal or no deal, there it is, it's Jesus Christ and therefore the contemporary consequence of this story is that just in that day, so it is today, there is a debate about the authority and the authenticity of Jesus Christ. Nothing is a greater issue in our culture today than this issue; Who is Jesus Christ? That's what it all comes down to. That's what it was then when they questioned His authority at that time and that's exactly what we see today on the front page of the newspaper, in every article and every news review right now, because the essence of the issue surrounding *The Da Vinci Code* is all about this issue; Does Jesus have authority? Or, is Jesus a hoax? Is Jesus just someone who has been embellished, someone who has been inflated, someone who has been exalted in the history of the Christian church or is He someone who is indeed, as He claimed to be, the fulfillment of prophecy, the One and Only Messiah, the Savior of the world? And that's the issue today. That's why I say to you that when you read the story the have to understand that there's contemporary consequence over the credibility and the authority of Jesus Christ. Now, it shouldn't surprise us that this is the ongoing debate of history. This has been the ongoing debate throughout all of history, the issue of Jesus Christ. And ~~Timothy~~ or that is Paul in writing to Timothy, his young protégé in the ministry, warned him and therefore warned us that this day would come and that we should expect it, always expect it. Listen to what the Bible says in 1st Timothy, chapter 4 and I want us to read verses 1 and 2; 1st Timothy, chapter 4, verses 1 and 2. See if this rings a bell with what's happening with us right now?

¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving sprits and doctrines of demons,

²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

I would say to you that's our generation, people who are willing to believe myths and fables, rather than to embrace the truth. I heard an esteemed biblical scholar recently say that in the 1970's he was in a university and he heard Francis Shaffer, the Christian philosopher and theologian speak and at that time in the 1970's Shaffer said this, he said:

"When mankind comes to the end of his rationalism, then they will loose their rationality and they will believe myths and fables, rather than the truth of the Word of God."

That's the age in which we're living. People who are willing to deny truth and the voracity of history and evidence for the sake of myths and of fables, to make up their own truths, to believe their own lies, to do whatever they want to do, but ultimately to do what they do to discredit the authority of Jesus Christ. That's why the Bible says in Isaiah 28 in verse 16:

Therefore the Lord God said: "Look I've laid a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; and the one who believes will be unshakable."

The Bible presents Jesus Christ as the One and Only. The stone rejected by the builders, but the stone that God says, throughout all time and all history, is the chief cornerstone. Now, again today when we see things being built, we don't see them in the way they were built in the ancient world. In the ancient world the most important part of the architecture and therefore the determining factor in structure was the cornerstone. It was the one stone that was taken from the quarry, that was shaped, that was sculpted, that was ultimately placed so that the direction of construction and the height of the building would all be determined based on the size and on the quality of the cornerstone. That's why when the Bible says Jesus is the cor...is the cornerstone, it's saying, all truth and everything that is built on truth rises and falls on the person of Jesus Christ. And therefore that is the contemporary understanding that we have in this place. Religion, faith, truth, spirituality is not a DIY, do it yourself project. Heh, and we got a lot of do it yourselfers in our world today, right? I mean do it yourself is off the charts, they got their own networks, I mean, it's amazing how many different things you've got, both on the internet and out in the market place to help you do things yourself. But how many of you have ever tried to do somethin yourself and messed up? I just wanna...I'm confessing, I'm telling you right now every time I do it I promise myself before God I will never do it again. Heh! Cause it's a disaster, it's just a disaster, you know, one of the things they tell you if you're gonna lay tile flooring is that you don't just go over and start in the corner and just see if you can get it to all lay out right. The whole floor'll be crooked and caddy wampus is you do it that way. They tell you you gotta make marks and you gotta start in the center

and then you move out from there, because the first stone you lay determines every other stone that goes with it and that's exactly what the Bible is telling us here about Christ, He is the appointed stone by which God will judge truth, righteousness and ultimate judgment of either forgiveness or condemnation and so Jesus is the cornerstone. If you believe on His name you'll be saved, if you deny Him you are condemned. That is the way that the Bible presents Jesus Christ, cornerstone, the One and Only. So what did it mean then? It has a prophetic purpose. What does it mean now? Well, now it has contemporary consequence. Whether we like it or not, whether people agree with us or not, whether people embrace it or not, it's all about Jesus Christ and truth rises and falls on the person of Christ because He's the promised One of history and He's the One and Only who was able to accomplish salvation for us through His death on the cross. That's why when the gospel writers and those who were the early proclaimers of the gospel spoke this is what they said, Acts 4:12:

"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there's no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved."

That's why John said in John 3:18:

"He who believes in Him..."

That is in Jesus!

"...is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he's not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

That brings me to the final thing that I wanna talk to you about tonight and that is it is **A STORY OF LIFE FOUNDATIONS**. It's not only a story of prophetic purpose and a story with contemporary consequence, but for you and for me, this is a story of life foundations. This is what it means to me, I have a foundation for life in the world in which we live. And what Jesus said in this parable was that He had established something that was sure and something that is secure for each and every one of us as we live our lives and interestingly enough this discussion that took place between Jesus and these religious leaders, also involved His followers, the disciples and they must have caught it, because one of His disciples used this same idea to teach us the truths that we need to walk away with today. So keep your hand in Luke 20, but turn back with me to 1st Peter, chapter 2, 1st Peter, chapter 2, because I want you to see what Peter had to say as he was speaking to a group of believers in the 1st Century. Peter in speaking to that group of people knew that they were a group of people who had been misunderstood, who were being misrepresented and who were being marginalized in their society. I would say to you that's how we're living as believers in this culture today. We're misunderstood, we're often misrepresented and we are being marginalized by the day in our culture as being irrelevant and being buffoons in a world that lives according to science and real history. That is whatever the history is as they wanna define it to be today. 1st Peter, chapter 2, listen to what Peter said, beginning in verse 4:

⁴Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." ⁷Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," ⁸and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. ⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰who once were not a people but now are the people of God, who once had not obtained mercy but now you have obtained mercy.

Please note how many times Peter says you. This is about you, what does this mean to you? What does this mean to me? And what it means to us is the very fact that we live with life foundations. **WHAT ARE THOSE FOUNDATIONS?**

Well, we live with an understanding that **JESUS CHRIST IS THE SOLE FOUNDATION FOR A LIVING FAITH.** Let me just be real straight up with you tonight, if what we say we believe about Jesus is not true, then it's not just another thing to put into the mix of religion and spirituality, it's something that oughta cause us to close our Bibles, walk out of this building and never again attend a church, never again give a dollar to a Christian cause, never again offer a prayer, because we are just fooling ourselves, if it's not true. And I want you to know that's not just my opinion that was the very persuasion of the Apostle Paul. In the book of 1st Corinthians, chapter 15, listen to what Paul says, it's the chapter on the resurrection, but before Paul affirmed the power of the resurrection he dispelled any myths about mistakes concerning the resurrection. 1st Corinthians 15:4, **[should be verse 14]** listen to what Paul said, he said:

And if Christ is not risen then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

In other words you're not believing in anything, you're just makin it up. Faith is empty if Christ is not risen. And then he went on to say in 1st Corinthians 15:17:

If Christ is not risen, then your faith is futile; and you're still in your sins!

There is not hope for this world, sin is sin and sin is sovereign and everyone lives under the domain and the terror of sin and there is no forgiveness and there is no relief and there is no change. That's pretty hard, but it's the truth. It's just degree of sin. And then he went on to say in verse 18:

If Christ has not risen then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

Death is final, death is it, it's all about annihilation, it's all over. All of life is just one tragic tale and one fatal ending, death. It's just when you're time has come. And then he said: [verse 19]

If in this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable.

Literally, we're to be pitied if we go through life saying that Jesus rose from the dead and we're just telling ourselves that to be positive thinkers, then we oughta have the pity of everyone else, because we are fools. That's what Paul said, if the resurrection is not true then we ought to understand that. You see, the resurrection is found in this truth, Jesus is the living stone, rocks don't live, they're dead. Jesus was taken and put into a tomb, He died, but then He rose again. Yes, the stone was rolled away and the living stone walked out and because Jesus Christ is alive He is the sole foundation for a living faith. I love how my pastor used to say it, Dr Adrian Rogers, he said:

"The resurrection is not merely important to the historic Christian faith, without it there is not Christianity. It is the singular doctrine that elevates Christianity above all other world religions."

Amen? All right I just wanna know that you're out there. I don't wanna get worked up for nothin. [congregation laughter]

Second Jesus Christ is **THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF A GROWING CHURCH**. Not only is He the sole foundation for a living faith, He's the solid foundation for a growing church. It says here in ~~chapter 5~~ or chapter 2 and in verse 5:

you also, as living stones,...

He's the living stone and the cornerstone, but now you're living stones and you're being built into a building, you're being fit into this plan and this purpose, this building of God called the church and you are a living stone. What is it that we crave more than anything else in life? It is a sense of significance and of identity and of importance. Every one of us wants to know that our lives matter. Every one of us wants to know that we are a part, that we belong, not that we are out and that we are odd, but that we are...we are connected. And here's the wonder of the church, when we believe on the living stone Jesus Christ, not only do we have a living faith, but we become a part of a growing church and that's what's so exciting about being a part of this church and this ministry, is that we are seeing the church of God being built in and through and around us and we are sharing that identity in life in Christ. We live for something that matters and our lives are a part of something that are gonna last for eternity because we are a part of a growing church in Jesus Christ and all of our longings are fulfilled in the meaning of living for God's purpose

and not just living for ourselves. That's why we keep focusing on reaching more people and...and impacting the community, because this isn't just about us getting a few living stones in this building and then just bein a bunch of rocks that rattle around together until we dissipate. It's about continuing to build the life of this church to every place that God will allow us to do it.

There's a third truth to see tonight and that is that not only is Jesus Christ the sole foundation for a living faith and the solid foundation for a growing church, but Jesus Christ is **THE STRONG FOUNDATION FOR AN ENDURING FAMILY**. If there's anything that needs help in our world today it's our homes, it's our families. One of my favorite passages of Scripture is Matthew, chapter 7, it's the end of The Sermon On The Mount, Matthew 5, 6 and 7, Sermon On The Mount. Jesus gathered people and spoke to them, it starts with The Beatitudes and ends with this little story, it's a parable, He says two men went out to build a house, He said one man built his house hastily on the sand and when the winds and the rains and the floods came and beat against that house it fell because it didn't have a foundation. He said, but another man, being a wise man went out and built his house on a rock and when the same winds and the same rains and the same floods came against that house and it stood, the story tells us. For there's no other foundation that any man can lay, but that which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ, He is the foundation for building families. That's why in just a..., well, this weekend and in the next few weeks our pastor's gonna begin a new series and he's gonna call it *Smart Homes, Wise Families*. You've probably seen this poster up around the church campus, *Smart Homes, Wise Families*. Why? Because the one way to build enduring life and love, is to do it based on the authority and the foundation of Jesus Christ. You wanna know why our homes are in such a mess? Because they are not under the authority of Jesus Christ. When families are in and under Christ they're together, when they're not, and there may be portions of a family that are and someone in that family who is not. But when they are under Christ homes and families are strong and...and...and are...and are thriving because we begin to love one another as Christ loved the church.

The final thing that I would say to you tonight is that **JESUS CHRIST IS THE SURE FOUNDATION FOR A CHANGING FUTURE**. He is the sure foundation for a changing future. You don't have to be 82 years old and have trouble crossing a street to realize that the world in which we are living in today is picking up its pace at such an accelerated rate that all of us fear of being left behind or left out. All of us fear of being caught in in intersection of danger and not being prepared, because life keeps changing, the world keeps changing. The financial markets are changing, the...the geopolitical systems are changing, terrorism is rising and...and other nations that are conflicting nations with our life and ideology and democracy are rising to power and there is conflict and fermenting that is going on in the world all around us and every day we almost just have to block it out and say I don't wanna hear any more of it because there is the fear of a world that's gonna change and we're gonna be caught in an intersection with a light that changed and something in our world is gonna

be shattered. How do I face the future? How do I look at my children? How will I, if I live long enough to see it one day, look at a future for my grandchildren if God should so give them to me, and have hope and not despair? I'll tell you how, Jesus Christ is the sure foundation of a changing future and it doesn't matter what changes in the world around us if your life is secure on the foundation of Christ, your world will be strong in Him. You see it all comes back to this, the story about the foundation. It meant something then, it means something now. But it means something to you and to me personally and my prayer tonight is that you can say and that you can sing what the songwriter did when he wrote these words:

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Then I want you to say the rest of it with me okay?

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.*