

**Malmo Mission Covenant Church**  
**Scattered But Worshiping Together - May 17, 2020**

There is no right way to do this. But make it your own; use it as you want to. As you read through the devotional, if there are thoughts to engage with, we encourage you to do that.

***At 11 am gather in a common area in your home.***  
*In the centre, place a lit candle.*

**Prayer (Or you can pray in your own words)**

Heavenly Father, remind us that we are not people of fear: we are people of faith. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs. For as long as it takes, wherever you call us. Lord, hear our prayer.

**Scripture Reading for the Day - Luke 6:46-49 & 1 Samuel 15:17-23**

*Invite 1 or 2 to read it from a Bible.*

**Devotional**

Life is full of storms.

We've been seeing some flooding up north in Alberta this spring in a couple of different towns. Basements were flooded, many foundations couldn't take the pressure placed on them, and they gave way.

There are a lot of foundations which are tested on a day to day basis. For many people this season of pandemic has been wave after wave of challenges. Health of loved ones, loss of work, no money for the rent, being in the same small house with the same people for days and weeks and months. Wave after wave comes at us.

It's times like these when our foundations in life are tested and we are wise to ask what is our foundation made of? In the passage just read, Jesus has something to say about foundations.

Today Jesus invites us to consider two directions in life which effect our foundations.

**A. How to have a solid foundation in life**

You come to Christ. You hear his words. Then you put them into practice. This is called obedience. A much missed truth these days.

But notice that **the foundation of life isn't God!** God is not the brick or stones that the house is built upon. God isn't the foundation for our strong families or our strong churches.

Look again but look deeper.

Jesus says;

V. 47 "As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock."

The foundation is connected to the building on it's top and to the bedrock on its bottom. God is the bedrock, the unchangeable, solid, sure, immoveable bedrock.

The foundation is the connection point between the building and the bedrock. It's here Jesus says that obedience to God is the foundation of a good and solid life! Think about that for a moment.....

I used to think that God needed to be my foundation for living. But how do you ensure that? How do you measure that? Anybody can claim to have God as a foundation for their life, but it's not always clear what that means.

But, obedience to God, well that you can know and measure. How?

Hold your life up against the Bible, especially the life and teaching of Christ. Am I obeying what he taught? Then I'm living in obedience to him.

Obeying God, that's the act of connection to the solid bedrock in life. Obedience connects us to God as a solid basis for life.

**B. How not to have a solid foundation in life.**

You come to Christ. You hear his words. Then you DON'T put them into practice. This is called disobedience.

V. 49 "But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The

moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Disobedience is like doing away with any need for a solid footing in life. Like building a large house right on the sand.

In the passage we read from 1 Samuel, the example of disobedience is found in the life of Saul and Samuel has some pretty strong words for him.

V. 22 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Listening to him is much better than offering the fat of rams. 23 Rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshipping idols.

He gets right to the point. Obedience is far better than sacrifice.

God doesn't want our sacrificial giving, or sacrificing our time and energy, if he doesn't have our obedience.

Listening to God is far better than giving him all the nice wonderful gifts you may have. It's THAT important to Him. In fact rebellion, a type of disobedience, is as bad as the sin of witchcraft!

We try to live our lives without building strong foundations of obedience, and what happens? A strong wave hits us and we are devastated and then we try to make deals of sacrifice with God when he never had our obedience.

Just like Saul.

A strong wind blows or a wave hits us hard and we want to quickly make a deal, a sacrifice to God when we never were willing to obey him!

In the midst of turmoil and tears, we find out quickly that we have no foundation. What we've spent a lifetime building has been washed away.

God doesn't need our dollars and energy, if he doesn't have our obedience.

Obedience is more important, because it means a strong foundation for life. It may surprise some of us that God feels so strongly about obedience. Yet He does.

We may have to catch up with God's thinking about obedience.

Some of us may need to dig around our foundations a bit for repairs. Dig deeply my friends. Your future is in the balance.

If your life is not a life of obedience to God, the next big storm that comes along could wipe you out. Nothing to stand on, nothing secure.

Really, this is a call to return to first things. The basics. Obedience.

If we want to be able to face the storms of life, we need to work on the foundations of our lives.

Obedience to Jesus is the foundation for life. So, practice obeying His word. Do what it says. Don't waste a lot of time arguing if it's meant for today, just do it, obey and watch what happens.

In God you will have all the resources you need to face all the craziness of the storms that will come in this lifetime.

It's not lost on me that this virus is described as coming "In waves."

May God help us learn the discipline of obedience.

### **Take time to pray together.**

-Ask or think of some things to pray for

**Prayer** - Have someone pray this, or pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.