

Come Follow Me podcast  
Week 35  
Helaman 1-6

Have you ever wondered why Jesus spoke in parables? He frequently used metaphors and stories to convey a message to His followers. Well, it may not be as strange and out of place as we might think. We do it all the time. If you have ever used or heard the phrase “It is kind of like...” you are about to witness a parable. In a blog called “point me to Jesus” the writer tells this story:

“My mother and father love animals—especially dogs. For seventeen years, they had a little mutt named Fancy who knew to sit on command. One day, after my father spoke at a church, my dad walked across the road with the pastor. Fancy followed behind. Once across, Fancy looked back and saw my mom on the other side of the road, talking to some ladies. Mom could tell Fancy was thinking about dashing toward her and she feared she’d get hit by a passing car. “Sit, Fancy!” she yelled across the street. Fancy sat. Fancy’s disciplined response saved that adorable dog’s life.

Each of us is a little like Fancy, running through life, unaware of the dangers around us. Often it takes an automatic, disciplined response to God’s Word to avoid trouble. Just as Fancy knew to sit because she was familiar with the command, we can know what is right, and obey it faithfully, the more familiar we are with God’s Word. Whatever God asks of us in Scripture, we can be sure it is for our good.”

<https://pointmetojesus.com/a-modern-day-parable/>

We can see parables all around us everyday. They help us to understand things that would normally be foreign to us. It can be confusing sometimes when we don't understand what the scriptures are referring to when a parable might have rang true back then but is outside of our realm today.

One of my favorite ones in the book of Helaman is in chapter 5 verse 12 when Helaman wrote to his sons saying:

“12 And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the **rock** of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your **foundation**; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty **storm** shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag

you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall.”

This is a great visual symbol that we can learn a lot from. Christ Jesus is the Rock.

In a recent talk given by Elder David A. Bednar he said this about this passage:

“The symbolism of Christ as the “rock” upon whom we should build the foundation of our lives is most instructive. Please note in this verse that the Savior is not the foundation. Rather, we are admonished to build our personal spiritual foundation upon Him.

The foundation is the part of a building that connects it to the ground. A strong foundation provides protection from natural disasters and many other destructive forces.

In a similar way, the foundation of our lives must be connected to the rock of Christ if we are to remain firm and steadfast.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2024/04/21bednar?lang=eng>

I'm pretty sure that most of us are not builders or engineers. So, this concept may go right over our heads and we might miss the point if we are not careful.

Jesus is the Rock. the firm unmovable force that will secure and protect us. And we are to build our foundation upon him and anchor ourselves to it so we can withstand the storm and pareles of life. So, what does that mean? How do we build a foundation on Jesus and anchor ourselves to Him?

To keep with the theme. I would like to share a couple examples or parables with you so we can better understand.

Marriage can be a challenging relationship at times. Especially with the hustle and bustle of life. When our children were really little and we were just starting out in this new adventure of parenthood we didn't have much. My wife and I would look for little ways to spend time together to strengthen our relationship. Every few weeks we would ask someone to watch our kids for an hour or two and we would get a small inexpensive treat and just go somewhere to spend some time together. On a walk, or to the park where we would just sit and talk. For our relationship this was important. And my wife thought it was very romantic. It helped us to build a bond of trust and love.

I'm sure in your relationships there has been something similar to this, that has helped you to grow together in love. My question is: why is this so common in an earthly relationship and yet strange or foreign in our relationship with God?

We often view Him as this all powerful, majestic being that is there for us at our beckon call, like a genie in a bottle. And we miss the truly deep connection that He wants with us, that brings the most peace and joy into our lives.

Another point that I feel is important is our dedication to Him. If you had a family member that was being bullied or harassed or even tormented, what would you do about it? Most decent human beings would stand up in defense of this person we love. Even to our own demise. We would risk our lives in defense of our loved ones. Yet when it comes to God we think: no big deal, let them think whatever they want about God, it doesn't affect me any.

In the 2014 April General Conference Neil L. Anderson told a story about a young woman who was bullied and threatened by members of the church for expressing her belief in marriage between a man and a woman. By members of the church... Can you believe that?

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2014/04/spiritual-whirlwinds?lang=eng>

It is very common today to see the opinions of the few over power the beliefs of the many, simply because they are more vocal in expressing their beliefs. Those of us that are firm in our faith and built on the solid foundation of Jesus need to not be afraid that our houses will crumble if we stand up in defense of God and His eternal laws. That is what the adversary wants you to believe. He wants you to think that you will be jeopardizing all you have if you defend God. But the truth remains; That they that be with us are more than they they be with them.

In a blog post in 2018 the writer wrote this account about Sir John Franklin:

“An old mariner’s map drawn in 1525 is on display in the British Museum in London. On the unexplored areas along the North American coast are scribbled: “Here be dragons,” “Here be giants,” and “Here be fiery scorpions.” In the early 1880s, the map came into the possession of British explorer Sir John Franklin who didn’t fear the unknown because He so fully trusted what He did know. Rubbing out the terrifying inscriptions, he wrote: “Here be God.” We can survey our unfamiliar situation and want to yank the covers back over our heads and hide. “There be dragons!” we protest. Through the confidence we have in Jesus Christ, we can face uncertainty with what is certain and proclaim like Sir John Franklin, “There be God!””

<https://pointmetojesus.com/here-be-god/>

I encourage you to evaluate and inspect the foundation upon which you are built. And if there is need of some repair or even if you find that you built your house on the sandy foundation and it's time to move. Now is the time to make those adjustments. Our time is running short and the Son of God will soon appear in Glory to declare the end of all we know. Then I hope we will find

excitement as we stand before the throne of God to embrace an old familiar friend. The Captain of our souls. Our Eternal and Loving Father.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.