

## ACPC Bible Study: January: Luke 6: 43-49

### *Introduction:*

Jesus has healed many people, and taught and encouraged his disciples. Now is the time for challenge and action. Words without actions are useless. If we have absorbed Jesus' teaching, if he has touched us, we will produce good "fruit". You know a tree by its fruit. What we do and say reveals who and what we are. And it is right and proper that not every tree is the same. We are not all the same but we all must bear our type of fruit. We use our gifts, skills and interests to serve God. Not only the wicked will be cut down; so to will the indifferent, the inactive and the "neutral". In the preceding passage, Jesus had told his disciples not to judge others; look at what we are producing for God first.

### *Comment on the Passage*

The passage begins with the distinction between people who *merely say* the right things and those who both say *and do* the right things. Some people "praised God" but their words have no permanent meaning and do not result in any action. Jesus questions us about directly "which are you?" He makes us accountable for our answer. Jesus says; "come and listen; take to heart and follow; put into practice". In the parable Jesus shows us that our real foundations in faith are only found in a storm, or when time gets hard. Note that Jesus assumes that life *will* get hard at some point. We must expect that and there is nothing "wrong" with us. However, we need to prepare now.

Both the wise and foolish builders build their houses with the same design and seem to have the same purpose. Both preserved and worked diligently and well. However, the foolish builder was lazy. He did not want to do the hard work of building on rock. He chose the easy option but this proved disastrous. In Auckland we have the problem of "leaky houses" which are caused by poor workmanship. Perhaps Jesus would have used leaky homes in his parable!

### *Notes:*

1. In different places you build houses in different ways. In some places with high rainfall (eg Philippines) people build their houses with poles deep in the sand, not on rock. When the rain comes, the water rises and fall underneath the house and the house is safe.
2. Numbers 32:23-24 is very wise: build what you need for your life and family; just keep your word and promises.

### *Questions*

1. "Our words and our actions reveal more about us than we think". Do you agree?
2. What do you think "a gentleman's agreement" means?
3. What do you think the phrase "fair weather friends" means?

4. Look at note 1. What does this tell us for today? What sort of “house” should we “build”?

*Conclusion*

In the end of course we cannot do all that we should and must do. We still need God’s love and forgiveness. But this parable tells us that “faith and works” are like 2 sides of the one coin. You cannot separate them. We must hear and do. A favourite children’s breakfast cereal used to say that the rice bubbles “snap, crackle and pop”. When milk was added, they expand, you hear them opening and then they blow apart. When we have the milk of the Spirit in our lives, we expand our vision of who we are, we praise God with our words and then we “blow away” all that is evil and bad an in our lives and world.