

## INTRODUCTION 引言

Today is Baptism Sunday. I would like to use the passage we just read to encourage our four baptism candidates. Every time we gather for baptism, we will reiterate one important truth: we cannot be saved by water. We are only saved by the blood of Jesus. Baptism does not create faith—it declares the faith that God put in believers’ hearts. The four people being baptized today are already saved. That happened when they committed their lives to Jesus when they confessed Him as their Savior and Lord. In a moment, we will hear their testimonies about how they came to know the Lord. Accepting Jesus is the starting point of a relationship with Him. But following Jesus is a lifelong journey of submission. When we say that we have faith in Jesus, there must be evidence. What we believe should affect how we behave. We can never become perfect in this life. But we should continue to grow to be more like the Lord. Sometimes people say one thing but mean something else. That reminds me of a recent moment in history. Four astronauts flew on a ten-day mission around the moon. It was the first time NASA had sent anyone that far since 1972. A few astronauts landed on the moon 53 years ago. But this time, they only flew around the moon. Someone joked that they could brag to others, “We went to the moon.” But the truth is, they never actually stepped on it. It sounds close, but it is not the same. Half-truth may not be the whole truth. Flying in space might be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But salvation is a once-in-an-eternity blessing. A person is either saved forever or lost forever. There are half-done steaks but there is no 50% saved people. There is no second chance after this life. That is why it is so important to be sure that you are truly saved. In this passage, Jesus gives us a picture of what real faith looks like. True believers do not just talk the talk; they walk the walk. Jesus tells a story about two builders. He says one is wise, and the other is foolish. And as we look closer, we will see three key differences between them.

## EXPLANATION 解釋

First, the two builders have different attitudes toward the Lord’s teaching. One listens and obeys. The other hears but ignores. Their response shows whether they are serious about what they have learned. All of us have been students since we were young. We tend to hold on to what we think is useful, and we let go of the rest. Perhaps math or science became important for your career, while a foreign language you learned is something you barely use today. In the same way, it makes a big difference whether we see the Bible as important. If we do, we will spend time on it. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:2, **Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.** Think about a hungry baby with a bottle, or someone at a buffet who keeps going back for more. They will not stop eating until they are satisfied. Is that how you approach God’s Word? The truth is, we always make time for what we love, whether it is K-pop dramas, computer games or hanging out with friends. But reading the Bible is not just about gaining knowledge. What we learn should shape how we live. In the story, the two attitudes toward God’s Word are showed in

different approaches in building houses. The wise builder lays his foundation on a solid rock. The foolish one builds on sand. On the surface, both houses look fine. Both men completed their projects. They have a home to live. Surely, Jesus' emphasis is not on what is above the ground, but what is underneath. Sometimes, what is hidden matters more than what is obvious. I have seen people dressed like village folks sitting in jewelry stores. The associates treat those potential customers like royalty because what if they are rich people. Their wallets are more important than their appearance! What you cannot see is more critical than what you can see. In the same way, both houses in the story may look strong when the weather is good. But the real test comes when the storm hits. Rain pours down, winds blow and water seeps into the foundation. That leads to two contrasting aftermaths. The difference becomes clear. One house stands firm. The other collapses. If the foundation shifts, everything else will fall no matter how strong the walls and roof may seem. Once a pastor saw a crack inside his house. He asked a handyman to come take a look. The man reported after inspecting the problem, "Sir, I've bad news to tell you because your house has a shifting foundation. If I just patch the crack and paint over it, I would be cheating your money." When the problem is deep, the solution must go further. But we live in a superficial world. People have little interest in knowing what troubles you have. They just focus on what treasures you have. Big houses, nice clothes, successful careers can hide broken relationships, struggling families, and failing health. Storms in life will come in many forms. But a storm may be the only way to tell if the foundation is solid. Christians and non-believers alike will face similar challenges. They may be laid off from work, encounter traffic accidents or have severe diseases. Those who say that everything will be easy after you receive Jesus commit a serious sin – they lie! The Lord Himself was nailed to a cross, Job in the Bible lost everything, many Christians endure persecution. You may ask: "So what is the point of becoming a Christian if I suffer loss rather than being blessed? The difference is our foundation. Believers can respond with faith instead of fear. When our lives are built on Jesus, we can stand firm even when everything around us shakes. Therefore, we should reinforce our foundation in normal days before the next storm comes. Wise Christians spend time in God's Word daily. They do not only pray when they are in trouble. Think of it like exercise. You build strength over time so that your body can fight diseases and reduce the effects of aging. Likewise, we soak in God's Word to prepare for a storm. As we learn Scripture, it begins to shape our thinking. When problems come, we recall God's truth. Then we respond in His way, not ours. That takes faith. After the storm is over, we reflect. We ask: Did God keep His promises? Was He faithful? Did He provide? Over time, our faith grows. Even when outcomes are not what we hoped for, doubts will not turn into disbelief. This process repeats again and again until it becomes a habit. Eventually, that habit becomes our character. That is spiritual maturity. But growth is a gradual process. There is no shortcut. You will not finish the whole Bible unless you start reading a little each day. You will not trust God in big things if you do not trust Him in small things. The good news is that God is patient with us. He gives us grace. He promises to draw near to us when we draw near to Him. He is always with us. And He will guide us as we follow Him. May this message encourage our four baptism candidates and all of us to build our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus.

## INTRODUCTION 引言

今天是浸禮主日。我想用我們剛剛讀過的這段經文，來鼓勵將要接受浸禮的四位弟兄姐妹。每一次我們舉行浸禮，我們都會重申一個重要的真理：我們無法靠水得救，我們唯有靠著耶穌的寶血得救。浸禮不會產生信心，這個儀式是用來宣告神已經放在信徒心中的信心。今天接受浸禮的四位弟兄姐妹，是已經得救。這個轉變發生在他們把生命交託給耶穌、承認祂是他們的救主和生命的主的那一刻。等一下，我們會聽見他們的見證，講述他們是如何認識主的。接受耶穌，是與祂建立關係的起點；而跟隨耶穌，則是一生順服的旅程。當我們說自己相信耶穌的時候，就應該有相應的證據。我們的信心，應該影響我們的行為。我們在今生不可能達到完美，但我們應當不斷成長，越來越像主。有時候，人們說的是一回事，但實際意思卻是另一回事。這讓我想到一宗最近發生的歷史性事件。有四位太空人進行了一次為期十天、繞著月球飛行的任務。這是自 1972 年以來，美國太空總署第一次將人類送到那麼遠的地方。五十三年前，曾經有太空人登陸月球；但這一次，他們只是繞著月球飛行。有人開玩笑說，他們可以對別人吹牛說：「我們去過月球。」但事實是，他們從未真正踏上月球。聽起來好像很接近，但其實並不一樣。半真半假的話，不等於完整的真理。上太空可能是一生一次的經歷，但得救卻是關乎永恆、一次決定的祝福。一個人不是永遠得救，就是永遠沉淪。牛排可以有半熟，但人不可能有「一半得救」。今生之後，也沒有第二次機會。因此，確定自己是否真正得救，是非常重要的事。在這段經文中，耶穌讓我們看見什麼是真正的信心。真正的信徒，不只是嘴上說說而已，乃是活出信仰的人。耶穌講了一個關於兩個蓋房子工人的故事，祂形容一個是聰明的，另一個是無知的。當我們更仔細來看，就會發現他們之間有三個關鍵的不同之處。

## EXPLANATION 解釋

首先，這兩個工人對主的教導有不同的態度。一個聽了就去遵行，另一個聽了卻置之不理。他們的回應顯明他們是否認真看待所學到的內容。我們從小就是學生。我們通常會記住那些我們認為有用的知識，而把其他的放在一旁。也許數學或科學對你的專業很管用，但你曾經學過的一門外語，今天可能幾乎用不上。同樣地，我們是否重視聖經，會帶來很大的差別。如果我們真的看重，就會花時間在神的話語上。聖經在彼得前書 2:2 說：**就要愛慕那純淨的靈奶，像才生的嬰孩愛慕奶一樣，叫你們因此漸長，以致得救。**想想一個飢餓的嬰孩抱著奶瓶，或者一個在自助餐廳吃個不停的人。他們會拼命地吃，直到滿足為止。我們對神話語的態度，是否也是這樣？其實，我們總會為自己所愛的事騰出時間，不論是韓國連續劇、打電動遊

戲，還是與朋友相聚。但讀聖經不只是增加知識，我們學到的應該改變我們的生活方式。在這個故事中，兩種對神話語的態度，表現在他們蓋房子的方式上。聰明的人把根基立在磐石上，無知的人卻把房子蓋在沙土上。表面看起來，兩間房子都很好，兩個人都完成了工程，也都有房子可住。但很明顯，耶穌關注的不是地面上看得見的部分，而是地底下看不見的根基。有時候，隱藏的部分比顯而易見的更重要。我曾見過穿著樸素的人坐在珠寶店裡，店員卻對他們像對待貴賓一樣，因為誰知道他們是不是富有的人？他們的錢包比外表更重要！看不見的，往往比看得見的更關鍵。同樣地，在故事中，當天氣晴朗時，兩間房子看起來都很穩固。但真正的考驗是在風暴來臨時。傾盆大雨，狂風吹襲，水滲入地基，結果帶來截然不同的結局。差別立刻顯明出來：一間房子屹立不搖，另一間卻倒塌了。因為一旦根基動搖，再堅固的牆壁和屋頂也無法支撐整個房子。曾經有一位牧師發現家裡牆上出現裂縫，便請了一位工人來檢查。工人看過之後誠實地說：「先生，我有壞消息要告訴你，你的房子地基正在移動。如果我只是補裂縫、重新粉刷，那就是在騙你的錢。」如果問題在深處，解決的方法也必須更深入。然而，我們活在一個表面的世界裡。人們往往不關心你內心的困難，只在乎你擁有什麼。豪宅、名牌衣服、成功的事業，常常掩飾破裂的關係、掙扎的家庭，以及走下坡的健康。人生的風暴會以各種形式出現，而風暴往往是唯一能檢驗根基的方式。無論是基督徒還是非信徒，都會面對類似的挑戰：失業、車禍、重病等等。如果有人說，信了耶穌之後會一帆風順，那是嚴重的罪，因為他們在撒謊！主耶穌自己被釘十字架，聖經中的約伯失去一切，許多基督徒也經歷逼迫。你也許會問：「如果我信主之後仍然會受苦，那麼幹嘛還相信祂？」答案在於我們的根基。信徒可以用信心來回應，而不是用恐懼。當我們把生命建立在耶穌之上，縱然周圍的一切都在動搖，我們仍然能站立得穩。因此，我們應該在平常的日子裡鞏固我們的根基，在下一次風暴來臨之前做好準備。有智慧的基督徒會每天花時間在神的話語上，他們也不只是遇到困難時才禱告。這就像運動一樣，你不斷地增強體力，讓身體能抵抗疾病、減緩老化。同樣地，我們浸泡在神的話語中，是為了預備面對風暴。當我們學習聖經時，神的話會塑造我們的思想。當問題出現時，神的真理會浮現在我們心中，我們使用神的方式，而不是自己的方式來回應。這需要信心。風暴過後，我們會反思：神是否信守祂的應許？祂是否信實？祂是否供應我們的需要？我們的信心會逐漸成長。就算得不到預期的結果，疑惑也不會變成不信。這樣的過程一再重複，最終成為習慣；而這個習慣，會變成我們的品格。這就是屬靈的成熟。然而，成長是一個漸進的過程，沒有捷徑。如果你不每天開始讀一點聖經，就不可能讀完整本聖經；如果你不在小事上信靠神，就不會在大事上信靠祂。好消息是，神對我們充滿耐心，祂賜下恩典，並應許當我們親近祂時，祂也必親近我們。祂一直與我們同在，並且會引導我們前行。願這段信息鼓勵今天的四位接受浸禮的弟兄姐妹，也鼓勵我們每一個人，把生命建立在耶穌穩固的根基上。