

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1



The Wise and Foolish Builders
Matthew 7:24-27 & Luke 6:46-49

COMMANDER IN CHIEF

*Scripture Texts: Ephesians 1:20-23; John 14:1-6;
Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 9:24-28*

Did you ever wonder why there is so much spiritual defeat among the people today? It is because man without God is nothing.

This series of lessons is arranged in hope of helping to prepare a people for the hardship of Christian warfare. We hope to cause people to see who our enemy really is, the weapons he uses, and what we must do to prepare for victory over this enemy.

MEMORY VERSE: *The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*

– *John 3:35*

Jesus, the Sure Rock

God has given His Son all power (**Matthew 28:18**). As Commander in Chief of His army, He calls, recruits, chooses, prepares, trains, sends, supplies, empowers, motivates, directs and leads us. It is all Christ. We are only tools for Him to use.

Ephesians 1:20-23 One cannot have confidence without something to place confidence in. One cannot be courageous without a foundation to rest courage upon. There must be something to trust. Without a source of strength, courage is an empty boast that fails. In Jesus Christ a saint has a foundation rock for confidence. Living in Him we can have assurance even in the midst of trials, discouragements, and persecutions. He is the Rock from which we draw our supply (**1 Corinthians 10:4**), the Rock upon which the church is built (**Matthew 16:18**), the Rock of our salvation (**Psalms 89:26**), the Rock who is a *stumbling stone* and *offense* to rebellious sinners but a mighty bulwark to believers (**Romans 9:33**), the Rock upon which we can build and be safe in the storm (**Matthew 7:24-25**). Friend, anchor now in Jesus and you can say when the storm strikes, "But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge" (**Psalms 94:22**).

Jesus, the Only Leader

When Jesus was on earth He wrote that the whole world was in wickedness (**1 John 5:19**). A look around in our time shows that it has not changed. It appears to be sinking deeper and deeper into sin. Scripture warns that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (**2 Timothy 3:13**).

Evil forces are crowding in upon us. Communism is moving ever nearer as it grasps one area after another. The National and World Councils of Churches, influenced by modernism and humanism, are working for a "one world church" to dominate the field of religion. Roman Catholicism is attempting to draw the Protestant denominations into her ecumenical union. Moves are being made and laws passed to cut off tax exemptions to Christians and church property. We cannot tell when great opposition and persecution may be brought upon us as it has been to Christians of other ages. We may be called upon, as others have before us, to defend our faith in Christ and perhaps seal it with our blood.

If this comes, will we be ready? Will we be good soldiers prepared to fight a good fight of faith? If so, we must have our faith anchored in the Rock, Christ Jesus, so that the storm of the enemy cannot shake it.

This is no time for fear and despair, but rather for deepened faith and determination. It is time to establish and strengthen our contact with God, our consecration to Him, and our closeness with Him. Never forget that God has given our Leader, Jesus Christ, all power.

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Jesus Christ Has the Preeminence

John 14:6 Jesus saith . . . **I am the way**—the way to the Father's house, to Heaven, to union with God . . . **the truth**—enlightening dark places, revealing true knowledge, answering all questions . . . **the life**—giving fullness of life to the dead soul, giving it His life, making that life continue forever. Jesus is the only way. There is no other. **No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** Not by parent, preacher, priest, saint, angel, Mary, or good works. Heeding this, we are saved the despair of a fruitless search down a wrong way.

Jesus Is God, King, and High Priest

Hebrews 1:8 God is speaking to His only Son, Jesus. **Thy throne, O God**—Jesus is the King of kings (**Revelation 19:16**). He is deity. This is important for us to settle in our minds. We must know Whom we are trusting and we must know His strength is sufficient for all needs, or we cannot put full faith in Him. **Is forever and ever**—eternal, never to end. **A scepter of righteousness**—Christ's rule is righteous; He uses justice, mercy and love.

Hebrews 9:24-28 Christ is a high priest—one able to represent man before God, to offer sacrifices for man to God, to draw nigh to God in man's behalf. He made atonement for sin. Christ is the true antitype of the high priests of the law. Christ did His work once for all. He made atonement for sin.

The high priests of the law were purely human. They offered the blood of animals in a man-built holy place. They repeated the offering every year because it was insufficient to cover the need permanently. Christ is the fulfillment. He is the divine High Priest Who suffered Himself **in the presence of God** just **once** because His offering was fully sufficient **to put away sin**.

Christ is dependable as a Savior. His remedy for sin is certain—as certain as death and judgment. Everything He does is perfect. He is worthy of our faith and trust.

If we are to successfully meet the hard things of life and the opposition of Satan, the very first requirement is a Savior Who can save. Do you have Him?

JUST A THOUGHT

**This life is a school of EDUCATION.
Each day brings forth a RECITATION.
Death ends the term without VACATION,
and then comes the final EXAMINATION.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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