**GOD’S WORD FOR SINGLES (#3)**

***Your Magnum Opus: Built On The Rock***

The fear and the terror for singles is the same fear and terror for all of us, depending on our age and circumstances. As children we are asked “What are you going to be when you grow up?” At an early age we begin to dream of our future plans for life. Those plans change over time as we grow older. By the time we reach young adulthood we usually have our dreams for what we want formalized. Most of us want a good job, a few luxuries to make life easier, and a family in which to love and be loved. That’s not just the American dream, it is the human dream for all races for all time. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, said that man worries and strives for the basics of life: food, clothing and shelter (Matt. 6:25-34).

But at the end of that great Sermon on the Mount was Jesus’ parable of building our house on the rock, or the sand (Matt. 7:24-27). What the Lord was really saying was, “With what, or upon whom, are you going to build your life?” To the singles who are reading this, let’s talk about the answer to that soul-searching question.

The silent and often unspoken fear of singles as they grow older asks these questions: “Are my dreams for home and family gone? Am I to be alone for the rest of my life? Are all my prayers for a soul-mate unanswered by God? Or worse, are my prayers actually answered by God with a resounding ‘NO!’”

With these questions the fear soon turns to anxiety, which builds into crisis, which ends with the depressive thought: “Life is passing me by.”

Have I hit a nerve? Then let me share with you some thoughts from Jesus’ parable of building your house to renew your hope and revive your faith. While it is true that life almost never goes as we hoped for or planned, it is never true that life can pass you by if you have built your life around serving the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are in Christ – your life has only just begun! Dear one, drive your tent peg on that fact and camp on it - - - for the rest of this day and into all the tomorrows.

Read this with me please:

24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Jesus is not asking for you to interpret this parable. Look carefully, He spells it out for you in bold print. “*Everyone* (including you) *who* ***hears*** *these words of Mine and* ***does*** *them will be like a wise man who built his house* (i.e. life) *on the rock*.” Did you notice Jesus does not describe these two houses beyond their foundation type?

The house on the sand probably had great curb appeal, very tasteful décor, beautiful kitchen, stainless-steel appliances, filled with a functional family of a loving husband, sweet wife, and well-adjusted kids who succeeded at the expensive prep school. Oh, did I mention they also had a cute puppy too? It is a life most everyone would envy. Spoiler alert: It still got washed away!

The house on the rock possibly had missing shingles, chipped siding, leaky windows, aging appliances, 60’s shag carpet, occupied by an aging lonely widow who loved the Lord but was haunted by fears of falling and she can’t get up. That house didn’t stand because it was a great house but because it had been built on a great Rock.

It’s the foundation of your life that Jesus is begging you to consider. *“This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”* (Ac. 4:11-12).

If you build your life on the promises and commandments of Jesus Christ you have achieved what you were put on this earth to accomplish. You have secured your place in the Hall of Faith and your name in the Lamb’s Book of Life. You have been numbered with “*the few*” who will be saved (“*many are called, but few are chosen*” – Matt. 20:16; 22:14). You will have reached the pinnacle, yea the summit, of life’s mountain and will see a spectacular view that Peter describes as “*inexpressible and full of glory*” (1 Pet. 1:8-9), and Paul describes as the third heaven in which *“he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter”* (2 Cor. 12:4).

Do you think the bachelor Paul felt cheated that he had missed out on the blessings of hearth and home? Did he bemoan the fact that he had been cheated of not getting to “*take along a believing wife*” like Peter and the other apostles (1 Cor. 9:5)? Do you believe he wallowed in self-pity that life had passed him by? Not at all! He had lived life to the full, for these words were his magnum opus that defined him: “*I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life that I now live I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Gal. 2:20).

To all who are still in that category that some call “singleness” I ask you to sit down now and write your own Magnum Opus. A magnum opus is defined as “the defining work of art, music or literature; the masterpiece of one’s life.” Paul’s words that “*Christ Lives In Me*” beautifully summarized his life. Unmarried and without children to live beyond him he left a legacy that said, “*I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls*” (2 Cor. 12:15). Please, take a moment and write what is the defining epitaph of your life.

Dear one, in old age the breakdown of my body has closed off the options of my dreams from my youth. I simply can no longer do what I once dreamed. You, on the other hand, can still dream dreams. But in your desires for a different life I pray you do not bring tomorrows worries into today, but instead will seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33-34). Build your house on the Rock that is Christ.

May that be your Magnum Opus. - Rick