

# LIFE NEWS

PARKSIDE CHAPEL

## A ROCK-SOLID LIFE



by Ron Story  
Community Life Pastor



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel  
[parksidevisalia.org](http://parksidevisalia.org)

I confess that there is much in this world that I don't understand. For instance:

- "Why is a doctor's office called a 'practice'?"
- "Why is the word 'abbreviation' so long?"
- "Shouldn't the word 'ambiguous' have more than one meaning?"
- "Why does quicksand move so slowly?"
- "Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?"
- "Since when do chickens have 'fingers'?"
- (Don't even get me started on "buffalo wings!")
- "Why does Pastor Nigel wear short-sleeved shirts in the dead of winter when it is 30 degrees outside?"

On the flip side, there is one very important question that I do have certainty about:

### ***"What does it take to have a Rock-Solid life?"***

I am certain about this because Jesus gives us the answer. At the end of his three-chapter Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus summarizes the whole message by giving a parable of two men building houses. One builds his home on rock, and the other builds his house on sand. From all appearance, both houses look the same ... basic three bedroom, two bath, 1800 square feet, \$500,000 homes in the Central Valley. One of the key differences is that in the country Jesus is speaking of, it actually rains! In fact, it storms! And when the storm comes, the house built on sand

falls and is destroyed while the house built on the rock, though likely suffering some damage, stands. The imagery is clear, but the vital question is -- In Jesus' teaching, "What constitutes a 'rock solid house' as opposed to one built on sand?"

Jesus says, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and DOES THEM will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock ... Everyone who hears these words of mine and DOES NOT DO THEM will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand..." (Matthew 7:24-27)

The key to a rock-solid life is to build your house/life on the Rock ... JESUS! More specifically, it means to first of all, HEAR his words and even more importantly, PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE!

Sadly, many today no longer hear God's Word on a regular basis. Tragically, many who hear God's Word do not make God's teaching a practice in their daily life.

May we be those in the minority who regularly hear God's Word through faithfully attending worship services (ideally in person but when restricted by health, attending online), and as our schedule allows, plugging into a *LIFEgroup* and/or ministry service opportunity, as well as our own daily Bible reading devotional study. And as James tells us:

May we "be DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves." (building our lives on the sand) (James 1:22) Building a Rock Solid Life on the Rock ... CHRIST JESUS!