

KEY VERSE:

The Lord is my rock, my protection, my Saviour.
My God is my rock.
Psalm 18:2



THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER

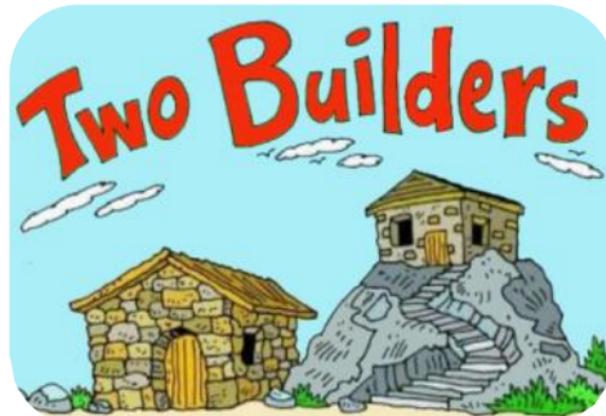
Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World
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FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

25th September, 2016



The Parables:

The Two Builders



**CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES**

KNOW WHAT:

- Today we look at part 4 of a series on parables Jesus told. So far we have heard the stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Son and the Good Samaritan. This week we are looking at the two builders.
- A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly truth.
- Today's parable can be found in Matthew 7.
- It tells us about two builders who each set out to build a house. The first chooses to build his house on a rock whilst the second builds his house upon sand.
- When a flood comes the house which is build on sand crumbles while the house on the rock stands firm.

SO WHAT:

- We have choices about how we live, how we prioritise and what we make most important in our lives.
- Jesus promises to be like a rock for us. No matter what happens he will stand firm in a storm.

NOW WHAT:

- Let us build our lives and our family's lives on Jesus, on things that are solid and good.
- Let us be a help to others when they are experiencing the storms of life, supporting them and encouraging them to rest in God.

LUKE'S LETTERS:

I'm lucky that my job mostly involves talking to people. Whether they're adults or children, I spend the majority of my week out and about talking to people, sometimes in large groups, sometimes individually. This week in clubs, groups, assemblies, parks, church services and the school gates I think I've talked to (perhaps 'at') around 700 people.

The consistent message from most of those people when I've managed to find out how they're doing is 'busy', 'pressured', or 'stressed'. Between jobs, schools and family everyone seems like they are gripping tighter to hold on because it's all just so busy. I'm the same, the summer is a lull where I can plan ahead, sort things out and even get a bit of training and development done, then September hits and everything is manic again. It's at these points that I really have to remind myself why I do what I do and who it's all for, otherwise 'busy' will sweep me away and I'll get lost out at sea. By building on God, by working to please him, the pressure is bearable, the busy-ness becomes manageable and I can serve the local community in a way that won't burn me out.

As you go through this week I wonder what is threatening to sweep you away? What are the sandy places in your life that you must be careful not to build on and how can you build on God, the solid rock, and live to please him?