

Sermon Title: 'Be wise'

Reading: *Luke 6:46-49* The wise and foolish builders

Dave Parr speaking at the All Age Engage Service on 05 February 2023

I really enjoyed looking at this passage, the Wise and Foolish builders as it's called. And this whole chapter is really interesting. But first, I'd just like to ask you a question. Children, when you meet people, what do you want to know about them and what do you want them to know about you? Just have a little chat amongst yourselves, adults as well. So when you meet people, what do you want to know about them? What do you want them to know about you? We've got an answer here from Victoria. 'Their name'. You want to know their name? Yes, that's important. Thank you. Okay, anything else? Yes. 'You smile at them to know them.' You smile at them to know them. That's nice.

'So what you've got to do to make a good friend Yeah, you got to smile them. Yep. You say hi. And then just don't make a really spooky smile. Don't make a really scary smile because that's gonna make them go like, Oh, boy. This guy's kind of dodgy.'

Love it. Okay, thank you. Bethany: 'I want to know everything about them. And then to know nothing about me.' Oooh, very open. Okay.

'I want to know whether they're a Christian or not.'

It's good to know whether a Christian. Excellent, very good. Yeah, come on.

'I want to know, what sorts of games they like to play.'

These are great answers. Did any of the adults come up with anything else? Yes? 'Which football team they support?' Oh yes, that's important, isn't it? Maybe? I'm not really interested in football anyway.

I wonder what did Jesus wants his disciples to know about him. He's just chosen the 12 apostles, they're the ones that are sort of focused on quite a lot in the Gospels. And he looks at them directly. This is the wise and foolish builders is part of his really long sermon that he preaches on the plain, it's called the Sermon on the plain, sometimes, anyway, it's on some level place somewhere. May be it was on a beach, I wonder. But he was talking to these apostles, he looks directly at them and then he says lots of things to them. And these are the sorts of things that he says, so children, this is what Jesus says to his apostles. So he talks to them about blessing people. He talks to them about loving people. He talks to them about not judging, but being forgiving. And he talks to them about bearing good fruit from the heart. So lots of really important things.

It's about how we relate to other people. And then he tells this really interesting story about the wise and foolish builders. And really, that comes right at the end, to say, all this stuff, you've heard, you call me Lord, but you're not doing any of it. Basically. I really want you to do what I've just told you. And so he tells them a story. And I think the story is great. Now, a tomato is a fruit or a vegetable. I mean, it's normally in the veg isle, isn't it? But it is a fruit. That's what we know. That's knowledge. But wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad. I know it's an old joke, but anyway. But I think this story is a bit like that. It's knowing where to build your foundations. So the foolish builder just built straight on to somewhere with no foundations, maybe a sandy beach perhaps where Jesus was speaking, I don't know. But the wise builder it might have been a similar place, but he dug down really, really deep until he found the rock And there is where he built his building. And this story is a bit about being wise, in where we build, but also in the way that we build. So it's not just about hearing God's word and thinking, Okay, I'm all right now I'm on the firm foundation, I trust Jesus. That's brilliant. He saved us, we trust Him, we love him. We can trust him because of what we've heard him say, I can trust him because of what he's done. But also, it's about those building blocks of faith. So we talked a bit about prayer, Bible study, gathering together in worship. God is our rock, and our salvation. We can joyfully worship together. There's all sorts of bits in the Psalms about that.

But there's a couple of things that we can do that I'm going to just mentioned. So in Colossians, four, it says this, 'be wise in the way you act towards outsiders. Make the

most of every opportunity, Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so you may know how to answer everyone.' So that's about how we approach people around us. We want them to know that Jesus loves them. We want them to know the truth of who Jesus is. But then, in James three, it also says this. I'm going to read this out to you. 'Who is wise and understanding among you, let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. The wisdom that comes from heaven, is first of all, pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.'

So all those things, really, the things that Jesus had been talking about in his sermon, are going to show us how to build on the rock, how to build a wise life, and it takes a whole life of faith. It's not something that you're gonna get to the end of this week and then tick, right, okay, I'm a wise builder have done that. I'm living the perfect Christian life. It doesn't work like that. But as you go through a life of faith, you will grow more and more in trusting God, but also trusting that he will give you the wisdom to do the right thing when you're with other people. So it's a little message for this morning. So I hope that the next time you meet someone, you will tell them all those good things, but you might also tell them a little bit about how amazing God is. Invite them along to church, and maybe they'll get to know Jesus and build on the solid foundation as well. Amen.