

What Do You Meme? Part 4

Jordan Biel | Castles In The Sand

KIDS ARE IN THE SANCTUARY WITH US


INTRODUCTION

This month we're looking at some interesting things that God said in His Word and we're asking "What Do You Meme?" Today, turn with me to Matt 7. While you're turning there, let me ask...

How many of you kids have ever built a sand castle? Maybe even with mom or dad?

Matt 7:24-29 The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

 ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law."

Our family loves going to the beach. We've gone to Sarasota beach - beautiful white sand as far as the eye can see. We've gone to Destin, FL, Maryland and it's always fun to build some castles in the sand - complete with a moat of course. Here's a few pictures ...


> **Lukas Building a Sand Castle**


Now, there's only one problem with building castles in the sand. They have a tendency to... get washed away.


Now just so you know, that awesome castle to the right – that's some other kids – not ours. Yeah, my kids were actually going over trying to knock it down! I'm like "What am I raising savages!?!?" Kids! Come on, you don't knock down someone else's castle!"


Let's look at picture # 2 here of my oldest daughter Selah


Now isn't she just SO excited about her castle!?! She is pumped! She ... has no idea it will soon be completely destroyed and utterly useless.

 See if you can guess who's sandcastle this is! (Brownlee)

 See if you can guess who's sandcastle this is! (Custer)

 See if you can guess who's sandcastle this is! (Anarra Culver)

 See if you can guess who's sandcastle this is! (Kelly Hetherington - either she doesn't understand what a sand-castle is OR she's cheating... I'm not sure =)

 See if you can guess who's sandcastle this is! (Jessica Johnson) Prob. The winner!

And THIS my friend is a picture of our lives when we care more about what WE want than what GOD wants.

Today I want to give you three ways to build your life like a castle in the SAND. 3 Ways we should NOT be thinking. Then I'm going to give you 3 ways to build on the solid rock that is Jesus Christ!

ONE SLIDE:

1. Sand Castles are built on popular belief.
2. Sand Castles are built on worldly wisdom and "I can add Jesus" philosophy
3. Sand Castles are built on what pleases me.
4. Sand Castles are built on hearing truth but not changing.



1. Sand Castles are built on Popular Belief.

The idea here is this - that just because everyone is believing and thinking a certain way doesn't mean it's truth and it doesn't mean it's what God wants you to think. This is the "political" way to think I would say. It's what the voters want - it's what the crowd is saying. We've all seen it - a politician has a certain



2. Sand Castles are built on Worldly Wisdom & and "I can add Jesus" mindset

The idea here is that I can maneuver my way into God's perfect will. I can learn from many philosophers and simply add Jesus. This is what Paul confronted in 2 Corinthians - his second

letter to the church at Corinth. They used the word “Sofia” a lot there because they so deeply valued world wisdom - wisdom that you need to “get ahead”

The problem with this way of thinking is 2 fold. First, it's based in a selfish motive - if it ultimately serves to help you “get ahead” be healthy and wealthy - then is it really God leading you or you leading you? 2nd of all, Jesus as understood by the Bible can never just be an add-on. He's an all-or-nothing kind of thing. JESUS must be the CENTER of everything we do if He is truly LORD and Savior. He is not added on to our lives in a list of other wise gurus.

It's not

City of Corinth

It was a port-city so many, many, people were coming there from all over the world bringing with them their religions, their philosophies, their mindset and worldview. It was becoming much like a NY or LA where so many people didn't feel they needed God because after all - they're already so smart - so wise - so advanced - so educated.

What was Corinth like?

We're going to use the city of Corinth - the culture - the people and the way they think and live - and put that up against our own American way of life and see if we find any similarities.

I'd like to just put it bluntly so you don't miss the connection.

 **The people of Corinth were much like the people of America today.**

Part of Bible study is understanding what was meant by the author THEN and THERE and Paul certainly knew who he was talking to and



3. Sand Castles are build on what pleases me (not pleases God)

Like the people at this metropolis called Corinth, we too can start to believe that it if makes me happy that it must be God's gift to me. That is based on a false belief that God is just there to make me happy. But we crushed that myth the last two Sundays, right! Yes, God will make you happy as in give you joyful meaningful relationships and blessings.

God's primary role in your life is not to make you happy. It is to save you!

Yes you'll be fully “happy” when you discover your sins are forgiven and that you have perfect peace with God!

But THAT is the joy and THAT is the happiness the Bible talks about.

That is what the Psalmist meant when he said that he delights in the Lord and his ways. He is “Happy” that the Lord has forgiven his many sins. This is the same thing we find in

the disciples and in the letters from Paul. God makes us aware of our sin and our need for him to forgive us. We repent - admitting our need for God. He forgives us and we are made in right standing with Him! We are given the promise of adoption - the blessing of being in GOD'S family and THAT is our greatest joy.


Building your life like a sand castle is living as if God is only there when you're in a pinch. This way of living - this sand castle mindset says the following ...

- God is there when I need Him, but I don't need Him till I'm in a dilemma
- God is there to give me what I want
- God is there to save me but not to be my Lord and Master and King
- God is so good that He has to overlook all my bad choices
- God gives us spiritual gifts so that we can impress people and see who's more important than others.

All of these thoughts are sand-castle-mindset!

They all have similarities of the Babylonian mindset. It's people wanting glory and wanting fame but in the words of Madonna "When the crowd cheers, I feel for a moment happy.. but then it fades."

The people of Babylon were no different - they wanted glory.

 **All humans want some form of glory. Not knowing the glory that comes with being united with Jesus is the only glory that satisfies! - Tim Keller**

The Corinthian Christians were living with a sand castle mindset. They were living for things that don't matter. And some of them went to church and simply misunderstood the gospel to be another thing to "add on" to their list of wise sayings. But the Bible is NOT a list of wise sayings! It's the WORD OF GOD.

The Corinthian Christians were making a mess of things - much like American Christians today - they were ...

- Not living in holy ways regarding their marriage
- Comparing themselves to one another asking who's more important?
- Become divided and tribal "I am of Paul." "I am of Cephas" "I am of Peter" and diminishing people who followed Peter or whomever THEY didn't follow. Paul had to remind them that we are ONE - united in Christ Jesus!

I re-read 1 Corinthians this week and it was shocking how the Apostle Paul had to prove that he was a legitimate Apostle sent by God and even visited by Jesus personally. The locals in Corinth felt that there were a few things against him.

First that he wasn't very rich. He had to make and sell tents to make ends meet. They were judging him based on his world wealth.

Then they tried to judge him based on his education not realizing that he had the entire Torah memorized! He's like "look I don't mean to brag but since you don't believe I'm qualified I'll have you know that I'm more qualified than all of you. He was a devout Jew.

Then they tried to say he wasn't one of the main 12 Apostles (known first as disciples) that walked with Jesus. But Paul refutes that by saying Jesus visited him personally after His resurrection! Jesus personally appointed him on the road to Damascus on that incredible day when he was knocked off his donkey!

 **The people of Corinth were much like the people of America today.**

The **Isthmus of Corinth** (**Greek**: Ισθμός της Κορίνθου) is the narrow **land bridge** which connects the **Peloponnese** peninsula with the rest of the mainland of **Greece**, near the city of **Corinth**. The Isthmus was known in the ancient world as the landmark separating the Peloponnese from mainland Greece.

The idea for a shortcut to save boats from **having to sail all the way around** the Peloponnese was long considered by **the Ancient Greeks**. The first attempt to build a canal there was carried out by the tyrant **Periander** in the 7th century BC. He abandoned the project owing to technical difficulties, and instead constructed a simpler and less costly overland stone ramp, named **Diolkos**, as a **portage** road. Remnants of Diolkos still exist today next to the modern canal.

The Diolkos was a paved trackway near Corinth in Ancient Greece which enabled boats to be moved overland across the Isthmus of Corinth. Consider it like a railway but instead of it being for trains - it was for boats. They would use a large Craine, hoist the boats out of the water and onto the stone path onto a cart with wheels, then push and pull that boat all the way across - hard work but saved them DAYS of travel in the sea AROUND the Peloponnese land.

This made Corinth a port city - a collection of all types of trade and commerce. Which also made it a collection of beliefs and religions and lifestyles - kind of an "Anything Goes!" mindset.

They were putting their trust in worldly things.

Just like the Corinthians, Americans today put their trust in their ability to get ahead, to advance society, to make a good living, to impress the Jones across the street, to take pride in their independence and ability to build what they build. America is still the greatest country and I'm so thankful for it!

But we have to be careful not to let the CULTURE determine our BELIEFS and way of living.

We have to let the Cross of JESUS Christ do that.

Paul makes this counterpoint saying "I don't boast in anything except the cross of Jesus"

"Boast" doesn't mean "brag" here. It's a failed translation it turns out. As I was studying this week I discovered that was the best word the translators tried to use but being we now understand that word "boast" to mean "brag" in a prideful way, we realize now that's now what he was saying. That original greek word - greek being the language the Bible was mainly written in - that word mean 'Put Trust In'

Paul was saying "I don't put my trust in my accomplishments or educational degrees. I put my trust in - my hope in - what I believe to keep me safe and secure - I put my trust in the CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST!"

So what is "BUILDING ON THE ROCK" that Jesus was talking about?

Build on the Cross of Jesus Christ

The foundation - the cornerstone laid by God Himself. Jesus and His message of grace is never-changing, always powerful and the truth of who He is will never fade away!


The Cross of Jesus Christ reveals 3 things

- a. **God's Salvation** - Jesus died for our sins. We were broken and in need of a Savior
- b. **God's Character** - God is the definition of love - self-giving love - sacrificial love. We know God loves us and we know what love IS because of what Father God did in sending Jesus.

c. A New Sacrificial Way of Life - The Bible says that we too are to “pick up our cross” that we are to sacrifice for the benefit of others; we’re to give of our time, energy, talents and even finances to the benefit of others. This idea is OPPOSITE of the world’s message. The culture around us says “take what you want.” The culture says “If your marriage is lacking, you can just divorce and get a new spouse... If you’re not getting what you want you can just leave and avoid the commitment to “love” BUT once we look at the cross - once we see what JESUS did for our benefit and how much we’ve been forgiven, we’re now prompted to give more than we take - to

Again, the Corinthian church was doing this because they were so newly saved but still had

Now I want us to go back to passage in Matt. 7 and this time I want us to start at verse 21

 ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Now, a moment in time in which Jesus illustrates the OPPOSITE of what we read about building your house (or your life) on the sand.

 **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? PETER GETS A REVELATION**


¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” [NEXT>](#)

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of

hell will not conquer it.¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” [NEXT>](#)

So what is the “rock” that Jesus mentioned here?

 ***The “rock” to build your life upon is the revelation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.**

My favorite author, Pastor John Bevere said something in a service I attended last week that I’ve heard before but man I just loved it and I needed this reminder: He said “Revelation knowledge is different than learned knowledge.”

In that revelation knowledge from God comes STRAIGHT from God. Look at what Jesus said when Peter replied “Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.¹⁸

You see we have to come to the place where we STOP READING BOOKS, STOP READING BLOGS, STOP READING FACEBOOK POSTS AND STOP READING ARTICLES and we simply close our eyes, quiet our spirits and say “God, reveal yourself to me! God, make yourself so real to more – more real than ever before! I want to know you like David knew You! I want to befriend you like Abraham! I want to follow You like Peter! I want to commit myself to you like Paul! I want to know You the way you want to be known!!! Reveal yourself to me! Make the CROSS my only boast!”

Make THAT your prayer. Make THAT the desire of your LIFE and EVERYTHING changes! Everything! THAT is building your life upon the rock! And THAT is not only a life well-lived, but a life with eternal value.

When you build your life upon the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the ONLY one that can save people from their sins, you will be motivated to tell others.

In fact, ***the greater the revelation, the more passionate you will be in sharing it.**

So.. if you feel your passion dying lately – simply ASK the Lord to give you a greater revelation of just WHO HE IS!

Life is significant only when it is lived in the power of the Spirit. In [*The Problem of Pain*](#),

■ C. S. Lewis noted: "Human will, becomes truly creative and truly our own when it is wholly God's, and this is one of the many senses in which he that loses his soul shall find it." In [*First15*](#), Craig Denison adds: "You and I are only truly living to the degree that we've surrendered our lives to Jesus."

■ **The sand in our passage earlier from Matt. 7 represents building your life (putting your trust in) anything APART FROM GOD and HIS KINGDOM. Anytime you are doing something out of selfish ambition – another way to say it would be – out of love for self – than you are building you life on the sand. You are building Castles in the Sand.**

And these castles in the sand that you're building – be in your position at work, *your* ministry, your goals, will one day be so easily washed away - just like the sand castles me and my girls built at that beach.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR DISCERNING IF YOU'RE BUILDING ON SAND OR THE ROCK:

1. Do you genuinely celebrate & get excited when someone around you has a victory?
Or are you more concerned with what you're about to tell them about yourself?
2. Do you go out of your way to show love and kindness to people not yet in the Kingdom?
3. In your daily conversations, is the King (is God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit) ever mentioned?
4. Do you notice when someone in the Kingdom is hurting and do something about it?
5. How often do you use the letter "I" in your conversations?
6. Are you more concerned with pop culture / Political news / fill-in-the-blank than with what GOD is doing in the earth and how you can be apart?
7. Are you internalizing the Gospel?

Are people around you more important than you?

Are their needs and well-being becoming MORE important than your own? If so, then you're letting the Spirit of God teach you how to become Christ-like.

So cool! If other people's needs are simply an inconvenience to you then you might be good at attending church but not yet building your life on the Rock that is Christ Jesus.

The most important thing I did this week: loved and cared for a little boy named Jackson.

NOT preparing a sermon. NOT creating an order of service in planning center. NOT playing guitar to prepare for a service.

Loving the orphan and expressing God the Father's love. THAT is the most Christ-like thing, the most important thing I did this week. Why? The Gospel has taught me to lay down my rights - my desires - my conveniences for the betterment of another - especially "the least of these."

These may be touch questions to answer and if so, here's what is SO awesome about our God – He can change us!

He can make us more like Him!

He can put HIS heart in our chests! He can give us a burden for the lost! He can give us a desire to please Him more and live our lives more abundantly!

When you build your life upon the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, everything changes! EVERYTHING!

Ambition or Vision?

So what's the difference between ambition and vision?

Well the difference is in the motive. As with all things with God - it's all about the HEART.

Before I define it by the way, BOTH can get you ahead in life. BOTH can make you successful. NOTE - Proverbs calls the lazy man a fool and even "evil" so we know that's settled. But were' taking about two options for the opposite of a lazy mindset - so someone that works hard.

You can have vision or ambition. I talk about this in my book The Process of a Leader.

Ambition is believing in what you can do to better yourself.

While vision is seeing what GOD can do through you, WITH OTHERS, for the betterment of OTHERS. God wants you to have VISION for your life! I believe Christians should be the most innovative, creative people on the earth! You have the CREATIVE HOLY SPIRIT living in you and guiding you!

Vision is a desire to better the lives of others for the glory of God. It's SIGHT - VISION for a better future ... for OTHERS - your neighbors, your city, your kids or grandkids.

Selfish ambition is motivated by a selfish or carnal or what the Bible calls "sinful" motive. **Ambition will get you somewhere in the world. BUT.. it will get you NOWHERE in the Kingdom of God.**

And that's what we're talking about today. Building on the ROCK not the SAND.

Your sand castle can look amazing! It can even look as good as Jessica Jonston's!!!! =)

BUT... if your life ... your sand castle is just that - sand - if it's build on just getting a head, having enough money or hear me - just being "smart" being "wise" in your own eyes - then that is a SAND CASTLE LIFE!

Having vision is having a preferred picture of the future, not just for yourself, but for your family, your organization or team you lead at work, the people God places in your life. Vision is drastically different from selfish ambition; let's make sure we don't confuse the two.

When you enter the Kingdom you realize that everything you're doing is IN the Kingdom. This is such a small but HUGE nuance Jesus gives us when He uses the word "Kingdom" instead of "church" or "community"

When you realize that Jesus is KING and start living like He is KING - everything is FOR HIM - suddenly you're no longer adding Jesus to your life on Sunday - now EVERYTHING is in the Kingdom!

Your business, your job, your hobby, your down-time... it's all meant to bring honor and glory and fame to the King! **Colossians 3:23 Let see if all the VBS kids remember this verse!**

Work at everything you do as if you are working for the Lord.

God is ALWAYS concerned more with the WHY than the WHAT.

Philippians 2:3 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, rather in humility, consider others more valuable than yourselves..." That is not a fun verse to read! As difficult as it is to take that verse to heart, we can know that when do consider others more valuable than ourselves, we'll treat them that way and when we treat them that way, we'll honor God and in honoring God, we'll be full of joy.

What would happen if believers across the world really started living like that? What if we built our entire lives on the ROCK that is Christ Jesus instead of fading, shifting sands - cultural trends - worldly desires and entertainment?

What if Christians everywhere were known by their constant desire to put others first? What a change that would make! Our small towns our change. Our cities would change. Our states would change and our Country would change.

If we are truly Pro-Life then we must also be Pro-Foster-care. You can't be one without the other. Too often, we've shouted behind the safety of our screens and never left our driveway to take care of the orphans in our own backyard.

If we are truly ...

EXPOUND MORE JORDAN

We said earlier that Jesus is our example in how to live – not only in his choice to forgive those who betrayed him or hurt him, not only in his example of how to serve by washing the disciples feet, but also in His example of when He healed people.

What happened when Jesus chose to see the world the way Father God sees the world?

What happened when Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit?

When we read Philippians we find that ...

Jesus gave us the ultimate demonstration of humility when He chose to wash the feet of His followers then give His life upon a cross so as to suffer our punishment. Jesus looked out for the interest of others and served them and in doing so, has been honored at the right hand of the Father and will forever reign as King. He is the ROCK on which we build our lives.

We can only make ourselves “great” by becoming a servant. You may have a grand vision for your business or organization and that is awesome to be full of vision! But I'd like to ask you a question someone asked me in 2013, “How is our grand vision connected to the harvest?” I just knew that I had to answer that and immediately upon hearing the question, I knew that I was being asked by God to change some things. I was being asked to see Innovate Records as not just a launching place for new Christian artists but to also think about how my efforts and finances in particular could see souls saved and “the harvest” reaped.

God's Word clearly instructs us that we too can do great things *in the world* for the *Kingdom* (not for us) if we don't do them with *selfish ambition* or *vain conceit*, but instead, with a motive of love and Kingdom purpose! Let's talk more about that.

Remember, we're talking tonight about building the Kingdom of God – *servicing* in the Kingdom of GOD. You know my mind went straight to the moment when the disciples asked Jesus “Lord, how are we supposed to pray?” Remember, they just saw the religious leaders prayer life and most the time it was flamboyant and loud and demonstrated for all to see (because they wanted everyone to know how long they spend in prayer – be care of people who tell you how many hours they spend in prayer) So the disciples wanted to hear straight from their new Leader, Jesus, what HE said about prayer – what were they to say? Where were they supposed to pray? How?

Jesus says gives them this beautiful, yet so simple template, doesn't He?
Our Father – He includes Himself – wow. In those two beautiful words, He conveys that His Father in Heaven is also OUR Father in heaven! WOW
Hallowed Be Your Name – in other words – ALL PRAISE, ALL GLORY belongs to you (not to me)
THY KINGDOM COME – YOUR Kingdom come, Father God, NOT MY KINGDOM COME.
Father, not MY will, not my purpose, not my ambition, not my dreams, not my plans, not my hopes but Father, may YOUR hopes, your dreams, your plans, and YOUR purposes come to pass and may I get to be a part of it! Lord, help me see what YOU want to do in the earth and help me to come alongside what YOU'RE DOING.
Keep from temptation – Holy Spirit, every day, speak to me loud and clear so that I may not be deceived into believing a lie from satan that what he says is good is actually bad for me. Help me Holy Spirit to test everything by Your Word and live a life of holiness, consecrated to You, God. Deliver me from evil.
For YOURS is the Kingdom, the power, the glory forever and ever, AMEN!

Come on, that is one simple, yet POWERFUL prayer and we can learn SO much from that, we could preach on that all night, but what I want to focus on are the words "THY KINGDOM COME"
Remember He is teaching His disciples, therefore, US, how to pray. Jesus has taught us WHAT we are to care about and HOW we are to pray and what does He address?
That we live in a Kingdom.
The Kingdom of God.
GOD is on the throne. Not you. Not me. Not any man. Not any ministry. Not any church. Not any new cool trend. BUT GOD is on the Throne and He alone is to be glorified and exalted and talked about MORE than anything else.

Matt. 7:7-12 Ask, Seek, Knock

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

THIS – THIS LITTLE INSTRUCTIONS sums up the ENTIRE LAW AND THE PROPHETS?!?!

Are you kidding me?!?! I just LOVE the simplicity of Jesus, don't you?

I mean, every time – the minute the Pharisees think they have Jesus cornered with a trick question, he replies with a simple question that reveals the wickedness of their hearts and their need for Him.

The minute the disciples think they've arrived and they say something kinda stupid – btw just like YOU OR I would've said – Jesus sums things up quite simply.

Remember what He says about the ENTIRE PLAN and LAW of God? Just love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself – that's the SUMMARY of the will of God for your life. That's it. Don't complicate it. Don't analyze it (all women and men who are engineers...) don't over-analyze it, JUST ACCEPT IT.

That God loves You! That God wants a relationship with you! That God wants YOU to walk in His love and His power so everyone around you can know how awesome and loving our God is!

So when you come up against a specific problem or need a certain miracle, just ASK and “the door will be opened”

When I've traveled in ministry sharing our songs in churches and preaching, I'll often pray with people towards the end of the night and you know **so many miracles have happened ...**

Not because I quoted the Torah.

Not because I was eloquent or long-winded.

Not because I yelled and sounded “spiritual”


Not because I tried to be somebody else who walks in God's power.

But simply because I asked. I would ask “Father, would you intervene right now and heal this situation...’ fill in the blank.

Jesus is the ROCK on which we can build our lives! He's the ONE PERSON we should go to FIRST - our first option, not our last resort!

God is our HEAVENLY FATHER. And He is a GOOD FATHER. And He WANTS us to ASK HIM to do miracles! It gives Him JOY for us to come boldly to Him, confident in HIS ABILITY to do amazing things! God gets JOY out of our desire to partner with Him to do all that Jesus did! Heal the sick, befriend the lonely, cast our demons, raise the dead and GREATER THINGS!

We can walk in His love and power as long as we keep surrendering our will to His!

 **When we live abundantly, others see Christ in us. [Oswald Chambers](#) said "Our individuality is to be rendered radiant through a personal relationship with God." The "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23) are obvious in a fruitless world.**

Jesus set for us a template on HOW to live.

When you stop building Castles In The Sand and you begin to build the Kingdom of God, you will have greater authority and effectiveness in your life.

Look at what Jesus said at the end of that passage in Matt. 7:29 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, ²⁹ because He taught as one **who had authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.”

You know what, I’ve heard enough “good advice” sermons. I’ve been in enough “good talk” services. I’m ready to walk in the authority of Jesus’ name! I want to see people healed left and right **WHEREVER** I go, not just now and then! I wouldn’t mind if God gave me Peter’s shadow anointing where my very shadow healed people! => Why Not?!?! I’m just saying I’m ready to let God be God in my life.

I no longer want to restrict Him and His power with my unbelief!
I want to be like that Centurion Commander where I can say “Jesus, You’re so powerful, all you have to do is say the word and my servant / my friend, my co-worker, my boss, my spouse, my kid.. my friend will be **HEALED!**”
It’s so simple isn’t it?
Let’s just believe that Jesus **STILL** loves people. He **STILL** has the power to **HEAL**. He **STILL** has the power to deliver and set free!

Isthmus of Corinth. (2023, May 24). In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isthmus_of_Corinth