



*What advice do you have for me?*

This question came up kind of 'out of the blue' during a conversation with someone I just kind of bumped into recently. I'd never really talked with this person before, but they knew I was a pastor and were curious about how I'd boil the message of the Bible down to a memorable bit of advice.

Talk about a difficult challenge! The Bible is a big book - actually, as I've said before, it's more of a library that contains many books. Now, if there was a *specific* situation the person was dealing with it that prompted this question it would certainly be easier to pinpoint some biblical advice.

For instance, if the person was dealing with a situation that was resulting in lots of worry and sleepless nights, I'd point them to Philippians 4:6-8. Through the Apostle Paul, God gives this great advice (paraphrased): *Empty your mind of all the worries by dumping them into God's lap in prayer. Then fill your mind back up with positive thoughts like the promises God has made. When you do that God makes a great trade - great for you! You give Him your worries, and He gives you His perfect peace. Hard to beat that trade!*

But the question above was a general one. There was no specific situation the person was seeking guidance for. How do you answer that? Well, for starters I said a quick, silent prayer for the Holy Spirit to speak through me. I didn't want this answer to be 'just something Pastor Dave came up with.' I wanted it to be from God.

On a different occasion at a different time, the answer may be different, but on this day here was my response:

*"Do you remember the old Sunday School song "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock?" That song is actually a paraphrase of how Jesus summed up a sermon He had just preached to a bunch of people on a mountainside. We usually refer to that sermon as the Sermon on the Mount.*

*Remember the line in the song, "The rains came down and the floods came up..."? The house on the Rock did what? Stood firm. What did the house on the sand do? It went "Splat!"*

*Jesus is the Rock and He said that we build our house - our life - on that Rock by listening to what He says, and then putting what He said into practice." So, my best advice would be to find out what Jesus has said to you - to all of us. Read the Gospels - start with maybe Matthew, then jump over to John. Then go back to Luke and Mark. After you find out what Jesus says... put it into practice."*

You might be thinking, "But you didn't tell them to trust in Jesus. That's how we are saved." Actually, by telling them to find out what Jesus says to them and then to put His words into practice, I did tell them to trust in Him. If you believe someone is telling you the truth, and then you go out and act on what they've told you, you have actually placed your trust in them.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)