

JOIN US FOR...

December **9**^{6p}_{-8p} **WOMEN'S ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**
Celebrate the Season with Food, Frivolity and Fellowship with our annual Ornament Exchange. Childcare is provided upon request. Last names: A-M bring Appitizer, N-Z bring Dessert

December **12** **EKIDS! ANNUAL TEAM CHRISTMAS PARTY**
If you serve in eKids! this party is for you! Childcare is provided onsite. RSVP to Christie by Dec 10th: christie.marangi@ourelement.org
6:30p-9p

December **13** **PLANTING ROOTS RUMMAGE SALE**
We're selling for our new home, and we're collecting all sorts of good stuff! You can still drop off your donations, & we still need volunteers: plantingroots@ourelement.org
7a-1p

December **24** **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
Three services to choose from: 7, 9 & 11pm. Childcare ages 0-4 will only be available at the 7pm.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles too help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org. - The Element Team

Matthew 7:24-27

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

43. We Live In The House We Build

TODAY'S VERSES:

Proverbs 13:16

Lamentation 3: 1-29

Matthew 16: 26

Proverbs 10:8

MY NOTES:

MATTHEW 7:24-27

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And 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. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Who is the smartest person you know?

Do they follow Jesus or rely on their own understanding?

What is one of the dumbest things you have seen them do?

What is one of the dumbest things you have done?

There are few certainties in our lives others than the fact that we will all experience hardship and trials (I know that is not the most uplifting certainty). When referring to suffering, Jesus calls it the certainty of certainties, we will all go through times of struggle. In Matthew 7:25 Jesus uses the analogy of the rains, wind and floods to depict the conditions of suffering; when we do suffer we have two ways to respond, trust in Jesus as our rock or follow the rest of the world's advice and build on sand.

What/ Who do you turn to when you struggle?

Are you struggling with anything currently?

Who do you share those struggles with?

Outside of the “certainty” that we will struggle, “certainty” is not something that belongs to humans, it is in the realm of God’s sovereignty. It is of utmost importance that we define ourselves not by what we do (job, who we love, who our friends are) but as a child of God. When we put our hope in anything but Jesus our dreams will be crushed. The great poet Jimi Hendrix even commented on this by saying, “Castles made of sand slip into the sea eventually.” In many cultures and traditions we will make certainty our god instead of trusting certainty TO GOD. It’s a pretty big difference!

In what ways have you made tried to make certainty into a god?

What are the benefits of making Christ your solid rock?

If Christ is our rock, we have the incredible ability to endure any trial or tribulation. When we struggle, Christ is with us, He cares and gives us the strength to persist. Life might crumble around us but Christ gives us strength to withstand the most severe storms. There is also reward associated with making Jesus our rock, we are allowed to rest in the presence of our King, He will take our burdens away!

What happens if you don’t build your life on the solid rock?

What are some of the popular things we put our trust in other than Jesus?

Life becomes meaningless and life is wasted when we build on the sand. Matthew 16:26 says this, “For what will it profit if a man gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” Everything in life is temporary except Jesus. When your life is built on temporary things you will find you have a lingering sense of emptiness; life becomes ruined. Proverbs 10:8 says “The wise of heart will receive the commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.”

What are some of the reasons (babbling) you have heard for people not building their life on the rock?

What are some ways to try and answer those reasons?

The good news of the gospel is that God doesn’t intend to leave you destitute, destroyed, or abandoned; He intends to rebuild you into a new creation in His son. On the Solid Rock we will stand, all other ground is sinking sand. Trust Jesus, His words, and His life.