

15. Foundation

All around the globe from Sweden to South Africa and from Peru to the Philippines, people will be praying together today as part of the World Day of Prayer. At its centre this year is Vanuatu, an island nation in the South Pacific, whose people have chosen the theme: *Build on a Strong Foundation*. In Vanuatu, desperately vulnerable to climate change, rising sea levels make where to build a matter of life or death.

Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders (Matthew 7.24-27) is the Day of Prayer's key focus. Jan Luyken's engraving (1681) shows us a house built on sand being demolished by swirling seas. In contrast, the house to which the figures in the foreground are pointing withstands the elements because it's built on rock.

The last year has shown humanity how great the winds and floods can be. Not just those of climate change but of pandemic and of injustice of many sorts. But when our lives feel stripped bare, we can perhaps see their foundations more easily. Are they in good order?

'Make me the foundation of your lives,' Jesus tells us plainly in this parable... Today we are invited to ponder this afresh. What do lives built on Jesus look like?



Today...

...may we strengthen the foundations of our lives,
by grounding them more securely in you, Lord Jesus.

Amen