



**Education Sunday: "Building a House on Firm Foundations"**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Rev'd Tony & Cathy Morling.**

*This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use as you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.*

**Welcome: The Lighting of a Candle & Call to Worship**

Lord Jesus, you called Zacchaeus down, out of his tree, and blessed him and honoured him. Call to us, so that we can learn from you and share our lives with you. **Amen.**

**StF 39 Angel voices ever singing**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy\\_cZRuqgmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy_cZRuqgmo)

- 1 Angel voices ever singing round thy throne of light, angel-harps for ever ringing, rest not day nor night; thousands only live to bless thee and confess thee Lord of might.
- 2 Thou who art beyond the farthest - mortal eye can scan, can it be that thou regardest sinful woman, man? Can we know that thou art near us, and wilt hear us? yea, we can.

- 3 Lord, we know that thou rejoicest o'er each work of thine; - thou didst ears and hands and voices for thy praise design; - maker's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine.
- 4 In thy house, great God, we offer of thine own to thee; and for thine acceptance proffer all unworthily hearts and minds and hands and voices in our choicest psalmody.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and merit thine shall ever be, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, blessed Trinity. Of the best that thou hast given earth and heaven render thee.

Francis Pott (1832-1909) Used By Permission. Calamus Licence No. A-734967

>> **Earth Clips from the International Space Station**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcсилоQody4>

## Our Opening Prayers:

*Almighty God, we come to praise you for the good things that you have given us: For the ability to investigate the past and discover new things today;  
For the gift of memory - that allows us to store up information from the day we are born; For the privilege of inquiry - that allows us to ask questions and form our own opinions; For the gifts of teaching and training - that allow us to explore and discover the world around us,  
For the capacity to pass on knowledge from one generation to another - so that we might constantly learn from the past;  
For the gift of imagination and vision - that enables us to change the present and to shape the future.  
But most of all we thank you for your love and generosity in allowing us to be stewards of your world showing us your will for the world - through Jesus, and helping us to get it right through your forgiveness and the power of your Holy Spirit. Thank you Lord Amen*

## Bless the Lord my Soul.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYLKrFOLS-E>

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.*

*Anonymous*

## Today's Reading:

**Matthew 7:24-28**

### 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,

## Time to Reflect:

I have two thoughts for you to digest with your Sunday lunch:

a story, and a question. Both emerge out of Jesus' pithy, punchy parable about the two builders which concludes the Sermon on the Mount.



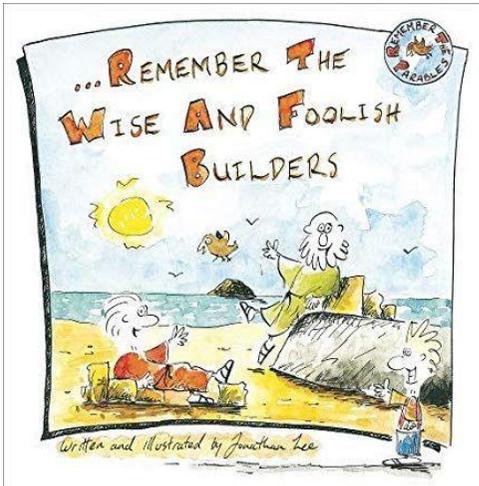
**A Story:** The most obvious part of the parable is to make the crowd think about what they are building their values, ethics and identity upon. Jesus is asking about foundations, which, though not seen offer structural integrity. Maybe you can remember being taught this story in Sunday school with a flannel graph and the singing of,

‘The Wise Man Built His House Upon A Rock’.  
Two foundation materials are mentioned: one sandy, one rocky. However, only one is able to withstand the rain coming down, the rising streams and the winds blowing. So Jesus warns, be wise about what you build your lives upon. Foundations are important.

Next Sunday the plan was for many students and alumni of Jersey College for Girls to celebrate their 140th anniversary within St Helier Centre. It was in the vestry of Grove Place Wesleyan Chapel that their inaugural meeting took place. The British Press and Jersey Times recorded it as such:

*A meeting held in the vestry of Grove Place Wesleyan Chapel, chaired by the Rev'd W. Nicolle - the result of the feeling of a group of Methodists, and their friends of other denominations, that there had long been a pressing*

*need in the island for a school 'to give to the daughters of residents and others, at an extremely moderate rate, an education of the highest order.'*



The religious teaching was not to be contrary to recognised Methodist doctrine, but neither was it to be “a condition of (a) girl being permitted to receive general instruction in the College that she attend any religious observance and instruction to which ( her) parents or guardians object.”

There are elements of this educational foundation story for which Jersey

Methodists can be proud: equal educational opportunity for girls, aspiration for excellence, access irrespective of financial means, and a faith-based environment that is inviting but not demanding.

Those are strong foundations upon which to build, and I am sure that everyone would wish them well as they celebrate 140 years of education.

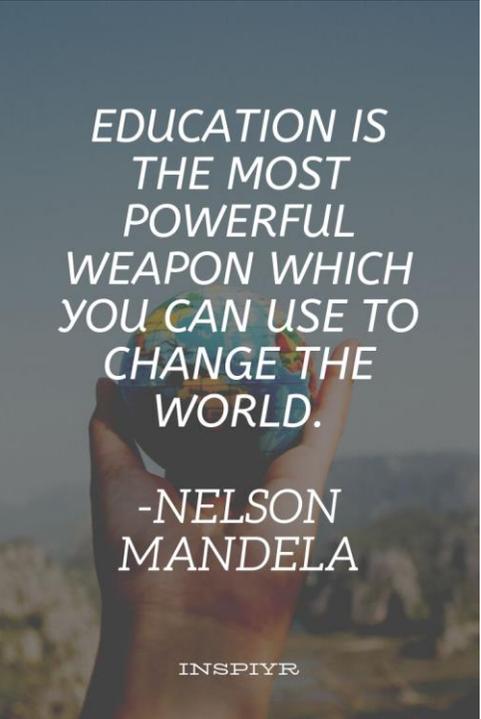
**A Question:** What do you think makes a good teacher? Perhaps you can recall someone who sparked an interest in a subject, for instance the music teacher who inspired you. John Lobb and Amy Luce did that for many. Or the history teacher who made the subject much more than dates, or the Chemistry teacher who trusted you with a Bunsen burner!

When I think back to my inspirational teachers they had more than competence and knowledge.

It was even more than enthusiasm and charismatic personality. It was their willingness to see potential within me, and believe that I could find pleasure and fulfilment in the subject—even when I was not very good at it! They somehow conveyed that they were on my side.

Jesus was just like that. Within his Galilean ministry he was often known as Rabbi - Teacher, 'and as one who had authority'. The crowds seemed to hang on his words. He illustrated from everyday life such as yeast, planting seeds, pearls and hidden treasure. Here was a teacher who made things clear by combining knowledge, wisdom and insight.

In these Covid-19 days, it must be especially demanding to be a teacher. So might you this week contact a teacher to encourage them. Sometimes a genuine, affirming enquiry can remind people of their noble profession and how they are valued as a teacher. You never know, your words, actions and prayers might just make a big difference.



EDUCATION IS  
THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
WEAPON WHICH  
YOU CAN USE TO  
CHANGE THE  
WORLD.

-NELSON  
MANDELA

## Conclusion

May we all be open to new discoveries and ideas; never too old to change; lifelong learners; men and women, boys and girls of the Jersey Methodist Circuit, who are continually shaped by the living presence of Christ to find that in art and science, history and computing, dance and mathematics that there are echoes of the glory of God.

It was Sir Isaac Newton who said, *“Don't doubt the creator, because it is inconceivable that accidents alone could be the controller of this universe.”*

Or in the verse of Charles Wesley, *‘Now let me gain perfection's height, now let me into nothing fall, be less that nothing in your sight, and feel that Christ is all in all.’*

Now that is a firm foundation to build upon.

## **Prayers: of Intercessions.**

*We pray for everyone who's just starting school or nursery  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for everyone who's going back to school or college  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for all those transitioning to secondary, to college, to university  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for teachers, tutors, lecturers and teaching assistants  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for parents, waiting anxiously at home  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for admin staff, catering staff, all who keep places of learning running smoothly  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*We pray for all who are adjusting to new circumstances  
The God who has called you will lead you on. AMEN*

*Let us feel you speaking to us,  
leading us, teaching us,  
Filling us with your spirit and  
strengthening us for the  
journey ahead. AMEN*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
allowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **StF 477 Teach me to dance**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMeAyiZ1niE>

*Teach me to dance  
to the beat of Your heart,  
teach me to move  
in the pow'r of Your Spirit,  
teach me to walk  
in the light of Your presence,  
teach me to dance  
to the beat of Your heart.*

*Teach me to love  
with your heart of compassion,  
teach me to trust  
in the word of Your promise,  
teach me to hope  
in the day of Your coming,  
teach me to dance  
to the beat of Your heart.*

1 You wrote the rhythm of life,  
Created heaven and earth,  
In You is joy without measure.  
So, like a child in Your sight,  
I dance to see Your delight,  
For I was made for Your  
pleasure, Pleasure.  
*Chorus*



2 Let all my movements express  
A heart that loves to say 'yes',  
A will that leaps to obey You.  
Let all my energy blaze  
To see the joy in Your face;  
Let my whole being  
praise You, Praise You.

*Graham Kendrick (born 1950)  
and Steve Thompson (born 1964)  
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## A Sending Out Prayer & blessing

*Into a world  
of noise and confusion;*

*into a world  
that bewilders and even  
bemuses us at times;*

*into a world  
of delight and regret;*

*into a world  
of hope and fear;*

*into a world  
that is ever changing,*

*we go with the message  
of an unchanging God*

*who gave his all  
that we might live  
life to the best of our ability.*

*God of all, go with us and  
within us, this and every day.*

**Amen.**

*And the blessing of  
God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you  
and all whom you love  
and all those  
you are called to love,  
this day and for evermore.  
Amen.*

*Where not mention above, Prayers  
from "The act of prayer" John Birch  
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on the phone by dialing

**02203 481 5240**

Meeting ID: **878 0011 0669 #**

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