

# THE CONIES ARE BUT A FEEBLE FOLK

PROVERBS 30:26, MATTHEW 7:24-39

Text: Proverbs 30:26, Deuteronomy 32:4

## **Proverbs 30:26**

<sup>26</sup>The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

Introduction:

The cony is an animal that is small, often referred to the prairie dog. These conies as the text states are feeble. Being feeble these animals make their homes in the rocks.

In the New Testament the Lord used an illustration regarding building our homes or lives upon the rock.

Notice:

## **Matthew 7:24-29**

<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup>And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. <sup>28</sup>And it

came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: <sup>29</sup> For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

These words are not just another topic he's covering. In these closing words, we hear a caution about ignoring the words he's just spoken, and while the context is the Sermon on the Mount, the principle applies to all the words of Jesus.

I want us to consider the words of the Lord this evening and may we learn the things that will help us to stand and not crumble when the storms of life come our way.

Notice:

## **1. PEOPLE**

A. Two men who were builders

- They both saw they had a need.

Many today fail because they fail to see their need.

- They both took steps to take care of their need.

Others today understand their need but fail to take steps to take care of their need.

Illustration:

Someone knowing that they are lost, but they fail to do anything about it.

## **2. PROJECT**

After these men saw their need and then took steps to take care of their need they began the project.

Plans were designed, preparation was made and materials were purchased, and construction commenced.

Looking only at the surface both of these men would be commended in their accomplishments. But we must be careful in commending people until they go through some testing.

Note the two houses:

- The biggest differences between the two projects was probably that one completed his structure more quickly than the other.
- One built with far less trouble, effort, and cost.
- The main difference between the two was out of sight.

- One was built on a firm foundation – One was built on a faulty foundation.
- One was built on a solid foundation – One was built on a sandy foundation

### **3. PROBLEM**

- A. The rain descended (Pressure from above)
- B. The winds blew (Pressure from around)
- C. The floods came up (Pressure from below)

All of us are subject to go through some storms. We're not immune to them.

### **4. PRODUCT**

- A. One stood the test

This builder spared no trouble to get to and build upon the rock.

- B. One failed the test

This builder sent no time to get to and build upon the rock.

Note:

Many today try to build on other things (good works, church membership, baptism, golden rule, but all of these are sinking sand.

## 5. PRECEPTS

- We are all feeble and needy
- The storms will come to all of us
- Time and effort given in getting to the rock is always time well invested
- Any cost involved in getting to the rock is a cost well worth it
- There are many benefits of building upon the rock
  - Security – survival during the storms
  - Strength – for future storms

Illustration:

I read one time about how shipbuilders back in the days of sailboats would prepare the masts for their ships.

They would go to the forest and find an appropriate tree, and then they would clear out all the surrounding trees and leave that one standing, leaving it exposed to the wind and storms.

As the tree continued to mature, it would gain strength. The kind of strength it would need to be able to stand up in the storms at sea while holding a large sail.

But that tree would never gain that strength if it was just left among the other trees. It developed strength because of the storms.

I believe that if we build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus and his words, then when the storms come, we will not only survive, we'll gain strength.

Remember:

**Deuteronomy 32:4**

<sup>4</sup> *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Close:

Will you stand the test? Are you like the conies building on the rock.