

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Things...They Are a Changing



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## Things...They Are a Changing

<sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

*Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)*

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<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

*Matthew 7:28-29 (NIV)*

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Things...They Are a Changing

Introduction:

- The environment we are in is *radically changing*.
  - National changes
  - International changes
  - Career/Employment changes
  - Family changes
  - Morality changes
  - Ethical changes
  - Religious changes

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Things...They Are a Changing

Introduction:

- The environment we are in is *radically changing*.
- There is a feeling of *shifting sand*.
  - How am I to relate to those around me?
  - How do we fit in?
  - Should we be fitting in? Should we be standing out?
  - What am I to believe?
  - What am I to do with what I believe?
  - Does acceptance mean approval?

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Things...They Are a Changing

## Introduction:

- The environment we are in is *radically changing*.
- There is a feeling of *shifting sand*.
- There is a clear need for a *firm foundation*.
  - What is that firm foundation?
  - How does this relate to others around me/around us?
  - How do I respond to those with different perspectives?
  - How can I/we be understood?
  - WHO is that firm foundation?

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Things...They Are a Changing

Introduction:

- The environment we are in is *radically changing*.
- There is a feeling of *shifting sand*.
- There is a clear need for a *firm foundation*.

In the midst of shifting sand, there is a firm foundation. That's what we're going to look at in the next few weeks, addressing some of the most important questions facing us in our world today.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Love and Lines



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## Love and Lines

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*Matthew 7:26-27 (NIV)*

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lines

- We need love.
  - I Corinthians 13:4-8a
  - Philippians 2:1-4
  - Romans 8:35-39
  - John 13:34-35
  - *We need love!*

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lies

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
  - Lie: You can't legislate morality.
    - Morality: principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior
    - Legislate: make or enact laws

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lies

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
  - Lie: You can't legislate morality.
  - Truth: We do legislate morality.
  - Truth: Every social unit legislates morality – by behavior, if not formally or by written rule.
  - Truth: We need to legislate morality.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lines

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
  - Lie: People are at their best when there are no lines, no boundaries.
  - Truth: People need restraint (lines, boundaries).
  - Truth: People are not at their best when there are no lines.
  - Truth: Throughout Scripture there were boundaries.
  - Truth: Someone, somewhere, draws lines. Always.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lines

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
- We need lines (boundaries, restraints).
  - Where there are no boundaries, people suffer.
  - Where there are poor (bad, inadequate, evil) lines, people suffer.
  - Our responses to lines, to boundaries, reveal our hearts.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lines

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
- We need lines (boundaries, restraints).
- We need *both* love and lines.
  - This flies in the face of current cultural understanding.
  - Without this understanding it seems impossible to reasonably discuss any of the social dynamics we are facing in our world today.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Love and Lines

- We need love.
- We need to address these two lies.
- We need lines (boundaries, restraints).
- We need *both* love and lines.
- We need JESUS: only he can both give love *and* empower us to live within healthy lines.
  - Jesus gives love without measure.
  - Jesus defines lines with wisdom and compassion.
  - In his love, Jesus empowers us to live within those lines.

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