

Brian: Hi, welcome to Cell Life Church's discussion series, 'Building a Firm Foundation.' You know when constructing any building, you want to make sure that your foundation is firm and sound, I know it makes sense.

Jessica: Yeah.

Brian: You take a lot of measurements, you use just the right materials, and you do these things so that the building is going to stand against any storm or unsettling of the earth and things like that. Well much like a building, our lives must also be built on a firm foundation – principles that can withstand the test of time and the storms of society. Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount in Mathew Chapter Seven with this very concept of having our foundation of our lives built on the rock, which is Christ.

Jessica: Yeah.

Brian: Today we are going to be discussing an important element of a firm foundation, we'll be talking about who Jesus is, and His purpose in our lives. And there is handout that's available, it's on our website, you can download it right now, it has some discussion questions, the scripture references and some other information. The discussion questions are also going to be displayed onscreen at the conclusion of the video.

Jessica: Yeah, and really what we are talking about today is Jesus. And what we believe about Jesus is, we believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and redemptive death through his shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

Danae: Amen.

Jessica: That was mouthful?

Brian: That is a mouthful.

Jessica: That is what we believe about Jesus and who Jesus is. And really it was – it's about His purpose served on earth, His purpose in heaven and what He is going to do in the future. And what we've done in this discussion is we've broken the statement down into three different elements. And the first element is that Jesus is God in the flesh, and one of the things we believe about that is that He was born of a virgin – that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Him. And you can read in Mathew 1:23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. And they will call Him Emmanuel, which means God with us." When Jesus was born through the Virgin Mary, this – this miracle was God coming to earth to dwell among mankind. He was God in the flesh.

Danae: Amen and another thing about Jesus being God in the flesh is that, He led a sinless life, He was perfect, He was spiritually pure, He had no imperfections; He was completely sinless, made no mistakes.

Brian: So He didn't go through the terrible two's?

Danae: Lucky Him.

Brian: Yeah.

Jessica: Lucky Mary.

Brian: Lucky Mary.

Danae: Yeah, Lucky Mary I think that's a little bit more accurate. Oh but we can read about that in 2 Corinthians 5:21, it says God made Him who had no sin to be sent for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Brian: Amen.

Danae: So what does that say? It says Jesus was sinless, there was no sin in His life which is why he was the only – He was the only one who could come and be the acceptable sacrifice to take sin upon Himself.

Jessica: Yeah.

Danae: So He was able to take our burden, our sins upon Himself so that we wouldn't have to carry that burden, and He did that for all mankind, everyone who's ever been born, past, present, future everyone, it's not one of those lifetime warranties where it's this life time then He has to do it again, thankfully I'm pretty sure He's relieved about that. But He was so – He was perfect and He was the perfect sacrifice and through our acceptance of Jesus' sinless life and His sacrifice, we can live a righteous life.

Jessica: Yeah.

Brian: Yeah.

Danae: And you know up until the time of Jesus, the sacrifices that were made weren't enough, you read in the bible and there is a lot about the detail that goes to the sacrifice. You can read a lot about how you know how everything had to be perfect, there – there couldn't be a blemish, there couldn't be a blemish on the animal, it had to be perfect, it had to be the most pure animal in the flock that you could find and then how they performed the sacrifice, and how they put it all together, it was all very detailed.

Brian: Yes.

Danae: To the point. Everything had a reason and that's how it all was before Jesus came. And the reason why it was and the reason why they kept doing it is because it wasn't enough, they keep – kept on having to redo it and redo it for every sin and every time of the year, that you just

had to keep redoing it because the sacrifice was not enough. But Jesus was the final and perfect sacrifice for our sins, because He was perfect.

Brian: Amen.

Danae: So He was the last one after Him, no more sacrifices had to be made; no more animals had to be sacrificed. I mean it was – all those things were in the past because of Jesus and Him coming to sacrifice Himself. We read in 1 Peter 1:18-19. It says, “For you know that it was not with perishable things, such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defects.”

Brian: Yeah, amen, amen. Yeah that’s just – that perfection of the sacrifice that Christ made, I mean that’s really that – that is the most beautiful piece of this – it’s just awesome. But you know another part about Jesus being in the flesh and as He was walking the earth in ministry, He performed miracles.

Jessica: Yes.

Brian: And we often talk about the miracles that Jesus performed, and we often want to see those miracles today as well, and He addresses that at one point. We are not going to talk about that per se right now, but Jesus did – He performed miracles wherever He went. He met needs, He had compassion on people and then He met their needs. And it was just amazing, He didn’t just have compassion, without meeting a need and He didn’t meet a need, without having compassion, it’s amazing how that worked. But He performed many miracles and we are going to look at a couple out of the hundreds of miracles that Jesus performed while here on earth. And the first miracle we are going to look at is found in John 9:1-7, which says “As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth, His disciples asked Him Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind? Neither this man nor his parents sinned, said Jesus, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work, while I’m in the world, I’m the light of the world.” After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva and put it on the man’s eyes. Go, He told him, wash in the pool of Siloam, this word means sent. So the man went and washed and came home seeing. You know that – that’s just an amazing – absolutely amazing miracle. And – but, I love, not to get off, off track too much, but I want to point out one small thing at the beginning, the disciples who’ve been following Jesus, who’ve been walking with Him, said who sinned, this man or his father? And He said neither; this was so – I could do this and God’s power could be displayed.

Jessica: Yeah.

Danae: Yeah.

Brian: Something being wrong with somebody does not always indicate sin in that person or in their lineage or anything else or from their ancestors. Sometimes it is just so that God can show

His power in that life. Jesus performed several miracles, in this one He proclaimed that He did the works on behalf of God.

Danae: Yes.

Jessica: Yes.

Brian: How many people do we see day in and day out that you know a miracle needs to be – needs to take place in their lives. And sometimes it is not because of something they did, whether be a poor choice, a poor action or anything else, sometimes it just is. It's because Satan is alive and well and doing stuff in this world, or it's just because God wants to demonstrate the power that He has in someone's life. And so and that's what Jesus is saying here, and we have to keep that in mind, but this a beautiful miracle of going from blind to seeing, and that's amazing. The second miracle we are going to look at is recorded in John 21:4-6.

Jessica: And it says, early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. And He called out to them friends, haven't you any fish, no they answered, He said throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you'll find some, when they did they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. And it is a little different from the healing miracle, but it was a miracle of provision that He was providing...

Danae: He was providing...

Jessica: Yes, yes. He was providing them with what they needed. Sometimes a person is in need of healing, He heals. But sometimes it is completely on the other side of the coin, it's like a provision. Need that extra money to make that month's end meet or that food, or that food bill, the power bill or something like that that Jesus is able to provide that provision. And that in itself is a miracle.

Brian: And he performs those all the time, even still.

Danae: Yes

Jessica: Yeah

Danae: Yes.

Jessica: We've seen it done, we've known people that it happened to, and He is willing to do that. He loves doing that. And sometimes just like cast your net on the other side of the boat. It's just like yeah something simple and easy and Jesus is willing to provide.

Danae: Well it's kind of like casting your worries aside. Cast your worries aside and I will provide. I will lift you up, I see that kind of like an outbursts. It's like we have to cast our worries aside, because we know he will provide for us.

Brian: Right, that's good stuff.

Jessica: Laying aside your worries.

Danae: Exactly.

Jessica: The next – the second element that we’re going to look about Jesus is that He died and rose again. And we can read, read where the bible records His death and we’re going to be reading out of John 19:16-18. It says “Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus carrying His own cross He went out to the place of the skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him and with Him two others one on each side, and Jesus in the middle.”

Danae: Now Jesus – the awesome thing about this is Jesus didn’t stay in the grave. He rose again. I mean you know it could become anticlimactic for the hero to die and then stay dead, but Jesus rose again. He came here to conquer sin, to conquer death. And that was the final and essential piece of Jesus’ sacrifice. That he rose again three days later.

Brian: Because He didn’t – He didn’t just stay on that Roman cross. I mean once He – yes He died and He paid the price, but that wasn’t the completion of what he was trying to do, what He was here to do.

Danae: It was just the first part.

Brian: Exactly.

Danae: It was just the first part. And you can read the completion, how Jesus rose again on John 20:1-10. And it starts with early on the first day of the week while it was still dark Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved and said, “They have taken the lord out of the tomb and we don’t know where they have put Him.” So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb, both were [0:13:00] running but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there, but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed. They still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Brian: Wow! You know that’s – I love that, I love that story and I love that passage of the scripture. It’s in all four Gospels, that the resurrection of Jesus. And like we said that that was the next step, just dying on the cross, yes that paid for the sins, but that doesn’t do anything for us ongoing that pays for the sins. Now He’s still – God still wants to work in our lives, He works in our lives through Jesus Christ. And Jesus not only – when He died he descended into hell. He defeated death, hell, and the grave in that three days. That’s what He did, and He snatched the keys of hell away from Satan. And that three days was – I can’t even imagine, but

after He was crucified to pay that debt for us, three days later He rose from the grave. And that passage – see how the disciples they saw what was going on, but didn't quite understand what scripture was talking about. And if you continue on reading you'll read about how the disciples started putting it together "Oh, when Jesus said that he would tear down this temple and rebuild it in three days. This is what he was talking about." You know those sorts of things, and it's just absolutely fantastic. What's really cool about this is it's documented in so many ways and so many different times, not only in the Gospels but even in the Roman record, which is really cool.

So as public records even talk about the resurrection of Christ and talk about how His body was not there and how they found the tomb and everything else. And so – and then on top of that there's testimony of how he appeared to the disciples and hundreds of others for many days after his resurrection. He continued to minister to people, He continued to and in bodily form. Even one of the greatest stories is when Jesus walked into the upper room where all the disciples were gathered together kind of in hiding. They were like "Oh what's going on!" And Jesus walks through the door. The bolted locked door He wasn't – and then in comes Thomas he's like "Okay I'm not going to believe it until I see and touch it" remember, so Jesus' like "Here, here, touch the scars of my hand and Oh here put your hand in my sides. I'm real, I'm still flesh here, however I'm not just a spirit; I'm not just a spirit light walker. No I'm still Jesus, I'm raised from dead. Here are the holes that I'm walking around still ministering to people, still meeting people's needs, still loving people and still showing compassion and things like that, just awesome, awesome things. The best part, I keep saying the best part.

Jessica: The best part, all....

Danae: It just keeps getting better...

Brian: They are all; the best, so the best part after the last best part, is after Jesus had appeared to the hundreds of people. They watched him ascend into heaven. Just – up into the clouds. We read about His ascension to heaven and I encourage you to read it also, but read about it in Acts 1:9-11, which says this "After he said this he was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them." "Men of Galilee", they said, "Why do stand here looking into the sky. The same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." That's just absolutely awesome. So they're standing around Jesus is ministering to them, He shared some stuff with them, and then it's time to go. And he just – there He goes up into heaven. Well through the clouds. It was just wow, and as everybody standing there just looking, wow and...

Jessica: What are the people wondering, is He coming back?

Brian: Is He coming back. Yeah, what goes up must come down, but they are watching and just gone. And then all of a sudden – I don't know who looked first, but you know somebody else looked first and here are these two men all dressed in white we know to be angels. And they're saying "Hey why are you just staring and looking up? He's going to come back the same way, just the way He left, that's how He's going to come back." And they promised that He would

return that same way. See where Jesus went was He went to take His place in heaven at the right hand of the Father as the King of all kings. That's where Jesus went. Wow is right. Mark 16:19 says "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them He was taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God." And what's He doing there? He's interceding for us. He's interceding for us with God as we continue to make mistakes, as we continue to do dumb things. Because if anyone here hasn't done a dumb thing raise your hand, good job, because we all do dumb things, as hard as we try and things like that we all make mistakes still, Jesus still at the right hand of the Father, "Oh no. Father no, no. She's one of mine. He's one of mine, covered by my blood. It's all good." That's the beautiful thing about what Jesus is doing right now in the lives of believers all around the world because He's at the right hand of the father. Just talking to the Father, just loving and is providing for us in this journey of our lives still.

Jessica: And that really leads into the third element of what we believe about Jesus, is that He is coming again. And like you said about the disciples, oh is He coming back?" Yes, He is coming back. He didn't come back right then and he hasn't come back yet, but we do believe that he will be coming again, hopefully soon.

Brian: Yes.

Jessica: And we can read about it in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. And it says "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command. With the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words." So Jesus is coming again! He has promised to return and we are waiting for it, sometimes not like looking up to the sky and waiting for Him but being prepared that...

Brian: Being prepared and watching for it.

Jessica: Yes we are watching for it. Getting ready for it, Jesus is coming again Halleluiah and we try to get as many people prepared for it as possible.

Brian: Exactly.

Jessica: And we don't know when He is going to be coming back and you can – Mark 13:32-33 but about that day or hour no one knows not even the archangels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, be alert you do not know when the time will come.

Brian: Yeah be alert. And I think that is a real key piece there, we need to be on guard, we need to be alert; we need to be ready at a moment's notice, so that when we hear that trumpet blast...

Danae: Yes.

Brian: And I can just imagine what's that going to sound, it's not like any trumpet we've heard. It's just going to be, resounding around the world and it's going to be – and then we...

Danae: All of a sudden, yeah there we go [0:21:00].

Brian: We are going to meet Jesus in the air and that's going to be – well there is a reason why we call it the blessed hope. It's because our hope rides on that it's a wonderful, wonderful thing.

Danae: So what have we learnt about Jesus today? Number one that he is God in the flesh who was born of a virgin led a sinless life and performed miracles. He is God in the flesh, God with us, He was God with us, who performed miracles, who provided for us and he showed God's power while He was here and He shows God's love and devotion to us. And the next thing we learn is that He died on the cross and rose again from the grave three days later. And like we stated earlier, it is so important to remember that each of those statements are equally important. It is important to know that He died on the cross for our sins, and it is also important to realize that He rose from the grave. He overcame death and sin so that through Him we can overcome death and sin.

Brian: Right.

Danae: Through Him we are over comers. And the last thing we learnt is that he is coming again.

Brian: Yes.

Danae: This is not the end, this is the waiting; this is us waiting and preparing and learning the signs, so we may know when we see the signs of His coming again. Jesus' purpose for coming was to reconcile God to man. He made the way for us to have a relationship with God again, when He came on earth and took our sins upon himself. There was a reconciliation.

Brian: That's right.

Danae: That was our salvation

Brian: That's right.

Jessica: That was our redemption right there.

Brian: That's right.

Danae: And all we need to do, all we can do is accept who He is and surrender our lives to Him.

Brian: Right, right. Yeah and in the next video we are going to talk about that.

Danae: Yeah.

Brian: We are going to talk about that very thing. Well we want to thank for joining us today and we want to encourage you to contact us. If you have any questions, if you have any comments, contact us. There's lots of ways to do that. You can visit our website, our Facebook

page, our YouTube channel; you can follow us on Twitter, on iTunes, on Sticher. Lots of ways to communicate with us see what else we are doing. Like I said next time we are going to be discussing receiving salvation, what salvation is and receiving that salvation and we started to allude to in this video. So there's a little teaser for you for next time. But until then bye-bye.