

Foundation

Challenge: In 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed thousands of homes in South Florida. 65 people died and around 150,000 to 250,000 people were left homeless. There was a total of 1.4 million customers without power after the storm and some residents were without power for up to six months after the storm rolled through. In total, the damage caused by Andrew in both South Florida and Louisiana totaled \$26 billion dollars, the costliest natural disaster in United States history.

Yet in an area where the wreckage looked like a war zone, one house remained standing, still firmly anchored to its foundation. When a reporter asked the homeowner why his house had not been blown away, he replied, "I built this house myself. I also built it according to the Florida state building code. When the code called for 2" x 6" roof trusses, I used 2" x 6" roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane—and it did."

I want you to stop and think about the house that you live in. If I asked you to describe your house to me, you would most likely tell me about the location, the color, the design, the square footage, the size of the lot, and the number of bedrooms. But you probably wouldn't tell me about the foundation. Perhaps you don't know anything about your foundation. Yet, it is the foundation of your house that makes all the difference.

Questions to consider:

What ways have you or your team took short cuts in workouts or practice?

Do you always give your best or only when others are looking?

How have you seen the storms of life affect those around you?

How can you prepare for the storms or before they come?

When the circumstances around you are going well are you tempted to take things easy?

What's going on: Jesus begins the parable in Matthew 7:24 with the word "therefore," which looks back to the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He gives the "blueprint" or foundation for all people to live their life. The parable of the wise builder and foolish builder confronts the reader as to the decision of each builder as to what they will do when given the "blueprint".

Game Time: Matthew 7:24-29

1. What is more important, the outside appearance or the foundation of the house?
2. How can you make sure your foundation will stand through the storm?
3. What are some storms you have experienced or storms you have seen others experience?

Key Verse: “...the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.” Matthew 7:25

Anchor to remember:

- Attention to details are vital and allow us to stand the storms of life