

# Let Me Draw a Picture

*A good picture can make truth memorable and applicable. This section features drawings used by counselors and teachers to communicate important biblical ideas to others.*

## Counseling People Who Resist Change

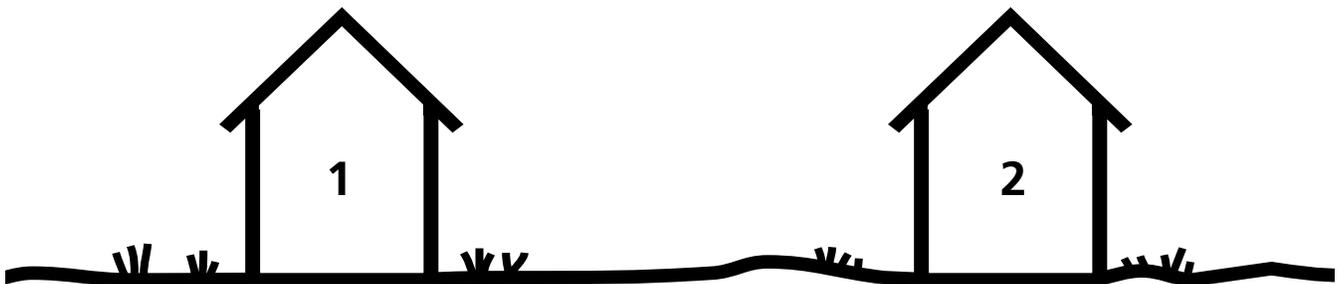
*From Luke 6:46-49*

*by John D. Street*

Counseling people who resist change is the constant struggle of the biblical counselor. Yet biblical counseling (as well as normal Christian living) requires constant change. Without change there is no growth. Sometimes you will hear counselees say, "I'm not ready to...[change]!" or "Let me think or pray about it a little longer." Most counselors understand this to be a common technique for indefinite delay. To make no decision is to decide to continue to disobey

God. When this occurs in a case I am working on, I will often have the counselee turn to Luke 6:46-49 and teach this drawing using a white board in my office.

First, I will read through the entire text with my counselee. Then I will draw two identical houses on the board, explaining that one of these houses represents their life (see Figure 1). I then ask the counselee this question: On the surface, what is the difference between house 1 and house 2?



**Figure 1**

The obvious answer is *nothing*. On the surface people may appear normal. They may go to church, read their Bible, listen to sermons, and carry on a fairly normal lifestyle. Others who see them may mistakenly think they are faithful, obedient Christians. In other words, God permits a time in His mercy and patience

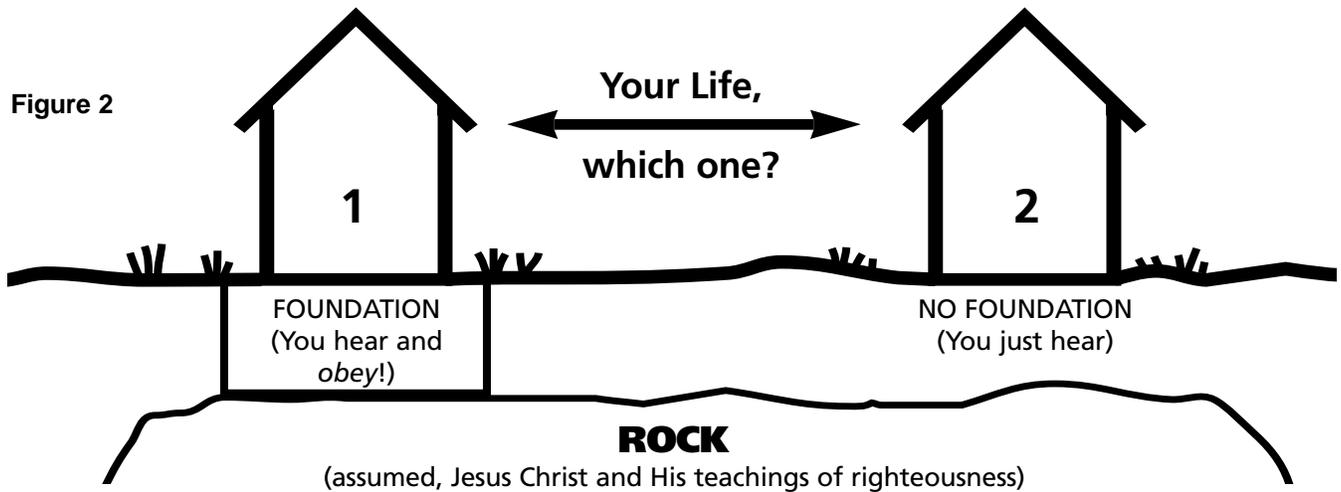
for children to maintain a fairly stable life in their disobedience. But He will not tarry forever (Romans 2:4). Jesus tells us, however, that there is a tremendous difference between these two lives.

Second, I will draw the remaining elements of Christ's illustration (see Figure 2) and then ask a second question: What, according to the text, do you think is the ROCK and the FOUNDATION? (Be careful about your answer because the little song about the *Wise and Foolish Builder* we learned as children misses the real

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Figure 2



point of Christ’s example—the foundation!)

Below the surface, some people hear the truth and obey (House 1). Jesus graphically says this man “dug down deep” to find solid rock (v. 48). This is a tough task in Palestine. The ground is very stony. One must work very hard to reach bedrock. Jesus equates this person to those who labor hard putting His truth into practice in their lives.

Third, I add the last element to the drawing (Figure 3) after asking the next question: According to this passage, what reveals the difference between house 1 and house 2—if you cannot tell the difference from a surface view?

Storms of life reveal the difference! “When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever!” (Proverbs 10:25). Those who

are resistant to change must know they are setting themselves up for trouble. It is only a matter of time before the storms of hardship will bring their life tumbling down around them. People who are resistant to change must understand that God will not permit their rebellion to proceed indefinitely. Note the adverb of verse 49, “the moment” (*euthus*, “immediately”) the deluge hit the house, it totally collapsed. People who fail to work hard at applying God’s truths to their lives are people who have no stability for life’s storms. They will be swept away by them. I will say to the counselee, “You are setting yourself up for future trouble if you refuse to implement godly changes in your life. By delaying your obedience to God, you are deciding to build your life upon shifting dirt that will be swept away when the deluge strikes.”

Figure 3

