



Firm Foundations by Kaylee Leaman

I found myself struggling with whether or not to go ahead with writing about a portion of the sermon on the mount since this has been our current sermon series. I wondered if it would seem over the top or maybe it would seem like I wasn't very original in thinking of new subject matter. After praying over it for many days, I felt that it was indeed what I needed to write. I have been amazed at how many different ways the Lord has been bringing Matthew 7:24-27 to mind in the past few months, and I realized that maybe reading this could be how God reminds you of the weight of this passage. It started when my baby girl was born and I felt such a heavy yet wonderful responsibility when I thought about how these first few years are the foundation upon which her very life will be built. The words "firm foundations" have been defining words in my life since then. I have found these words not only affecting thoughts of parenthood but so many other areas in my life as well. How firm is my foundation in Christ? Will I be carried about by every wind of doctrine like Ephesians warns against? Or will I keep in step with the Spirit?

I was encouraged by friends of mine who recently chose this section from Jesus's sermon as the scripture to be read in their wedding ceremony. They were acknowledging the weight of entering into a covenant before God. Jesus doesn't simply say the house with the foundation of sand would fall but that great was the fall of it. There is an intensity to this passage that can often be missed when we are used to hearing this verse's message in the form of a children's song. We must go deeper and evaluate the strength of our spiritual life's foundation. If it is weak, maybe you feel ill-equipped to strengthen it on your own. You aren't alone if that is you! We need accountability, church leadership, and most importantly a life marked by time in prayer and study of scripture. These things are purposeful gifts given to us by a loving Father. Don't assume because your desires shift that your foundation will immediately firm up and that your walk with the Lord will be closer. We must put in the work and be doers of the word!

"And those who belong to Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:24-25

Lord, I come before you with a thankful heart for giving us Your word in written form. We can ask for wisdom and You give it. Your word is clear that when we hear Your teachings and do them, we will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. I pray that we all would be granted strength and courage to crucify our flesh daily and walk in step with You. Amen

March 2025 |





Making Connections

Meet **Courtney Clemens.**

My name is Courtney Clemens. I am married to Chad Clemens, and we have two little girls, Mackenzie (age 3) and Kira (9 months). My parents are Dave and Lori McCoach and Chad's parents are Brian and Sandy Clemens.

I grew up in this area and was blessed to be raised in a Christian home. My family regularly attended church, and I went to Penn View and Christopher Dock. I was then able to continue my education at Messiah College. I majored in marketing and had minors in graphic design and Spanish. My Spanish minor allowed me to study abroad in Barcelona for a semester during my junior year, and that is actually where Chad and I got engaged. He came to visit with my parents and surprised me by asking me to marry him! I happily said yes, and we got married shortly after graduation. Now we have been married for over 10 years!

After graduating from college, I also began working at Lacher Insurance where my job was to help with communications, presentations, graphic design projects, and other operational activities. Even though I liked what I did, after having Mackenzie, I realized that I wanted to spend more time at home with her. I was not able to go part-time at Lacher, so I decided to try something new and totally different. Now I have been a part of the administrative team at Weaver, Reckner and Reinhart Dental for almost 3 years and I love it! Plus, it's fun to see so many of you in the office. ☺

The ability to work part-time has been the biggest blessing! I love all the additional time I get to spend with my girls and wouldn't trade it for anything. That said, I don't have much extra time for hobbies these days. When I do manage to find some free time, I enjoy reading, baking, and going for walks. I also love traveling and exploring new places with Chad, and we are both looking forward to doing more of this with our girls.

Chad and I are also excited to see Mackenzie and Kira grow up at Franconia – just like their daddy! While Chad has attended Franconia his entire life, I started coming here when we got married. I was then baptized and became a member here in the spring of 2021. I made the decision to be baptized in the midst of one of the hardest seasons of my life, when Chad and I were struggling to start our family, because it was through this time that I became closer to God than ever before. God used our struggles to teach me how to truly trust Him and His plans for my life. He showed me then, just as He continues to show me now, how good and faithful He is – no matter what.

One of my favorite verses that has been a source of hope and encouragement through all seasons of my life is Joshua 1:9 – Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.





Get Involved!



February 21: Care Packages for college students



Other Upcoming Activities
Sewing Circle
Tuesday, Mar. 11
8 AM – 4 PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, Mar. 11 at 7 PM



CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Women's Ministry Team: Gail Reinford, Charity Veltre, and Heidi Yoder
Editor of The Spice: Tricia Bergey