

## THE BUNGALOW

*Adaptation of Matthew 7/24-27 By P.Ribes, s.j.*

### Intent of this Parable:

- ✓ *To realize that success in any sphere of life is a Building-up- Process, never a final Product*

## The Story

Uncle Tommy was a good man. His only dream in life was to build for himself a cozy and comfy bungalow. He went to the countryside and chose a charming site to build his bungalow. He collected wood, stones and sand to build his dream.

In earnest, he began to construct his house. He was in such a hurry to finish his work that he had no patience to dig deep into the ground until he would strike rock. All he wanted was to enjoy as soon as possible the coziness and the comforts of a big house.

At last, his dream came true. He constructed a lovely bungalow, a small little palace to live in. He was proud of his work. Uncle Tommy's house was an object of admiration and of jealousy by all the villagers around!

One day a fierce storm broke up. The clouds were black and loaded. The winds grew strong and threatening. It was a gale. Inside his house Uncle felt secure. His house was the best miles around. He closed the windows, shut the doors and confidently stayed inside. The clouds burst, the storm raged, the water fell, the winds battered the walls and at last, with a loud thud, the house crashed. Uncle Tommy was trapped within. Strange enough, the small houses around his bungalow stood the gale

Village people around wondered: "Why among all, only Tom's house collapsed? "Was it not the best?"

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- The simple Parable of "**The House Builder**" is pretty well known yet it's very rich in applications and lessons are lost sight of. The "key" word to unravel its meaning is the word: "**building**".
- Our entire life is nothing but **building**. Nothing is given to us in its final and complete stage. Through life, right from birth, we have to keep growing and building at all levels, Life, in fact, is a building process never to be 100 % completed even at the moment of death!
- Our future will rest on our present.. **We can't expect things to happen. We have to make them happen.**

- If we build the proper foundations now, things, in all likelihood, will shape well for us later on in life..
- We can not expect to enjoy of a” *big, cozy house*” later on, unless we lay the proper foundations today.
- **Let us not fool ourselves. Without sacrifices, pains, renunciation and efforts today we cannot expect to secure a happy and successful future tomorrow. .**

### **We Have to Keep Building at All Levels:**

- **Personal Level:** Our bodies, our health, our character, our intellectual life, our emotional life, human values, our moral life, our happiness, etc.
  - **Social Level:** Family relationships (*Parents and Children*),. Marriage relationship. (*Husband and Wife’s shared life*), Social relationships (*Neighbors, Friendships*) Etc.
  - **Formation Level;** Studies, Careers, Training, Specializations,..
  - **Work Level** Office work, occupations, workshop, teaching profession, any possible job and occupation.
  - **Recreational Level:** Sports, athletics, games, social life, leisure, jobbies, etc.
  - **Religious Level:** Church, Parish, Any Religious Group Religious associations,
  - **Spiritual Level:** Prayer life, faith, hope, moral behavior, etc.
- If we wish to lead meaningful and fruitful lives, **we have to work hard to build strong and solid foundations at all levels**
  - **Maturity, Success and Perfection at any Level it does not, just, happen. Only through hard work and dedication we make them happen.**
  - **If we have to stand up against the strains and onslaughts of life - there are many storms and floods threatening us. To stand up against them, we have to keep building solid foundations throughout life.**