



THE STORY OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS

Once upon a time there was a mother pig who had three little pigs. The three little pigs grew so big that their mother said to them, "You are too big to live here any longer. You must go and build houses for yourselves, but take care that the wolf does not catch you." The three little pigs set off. "We will take care that the wolf does not catch us," they said.

Soon they met a man who was carrying some straw. "Will you please give me some straw?" said the first little pig "I want to build a house for myself." "Yes" said the man and he gave the first little pig some straw. Then the first little pig built himself a house of straw. He was very pleased with his house. He said "Now the wolf won't catch me and eat me."

"I shall build a stronger house than yours" said the second little pig. The second little pig and the third little pig went along the road and soon they met a man who was carrying some sticks. "Please will you give me some sticks?" asked the second little pig "I want to build a house for myself." "Yes" the man said and he gave the second little pig some sticks. Then the second little pig built himself a house made of the sticks. It was stronger than the house of straw. The second little pig was very pleased with his house. He said "Now the wolf won't catch me and eat me."

"I shall build a stronger house than yours" said the third little pig. The third little pig walked on along the road by himself. Soon he met a man carrying some bricks. "Please will you give me some bricks?" asked the third little pig "I want to build a house for myself." "Yes" said the man and he gave the third little pig some bricks. Then the third little pig built himself a house of bricks. It took him a long time to build it; it was a very strong house. The third little pig was very pleased with his house. He said "Now the wolf won't catch me and eat me."

The next day the wolf came along the road. He came to the house of straw which the first little pig built. When the first little pig saw the wolf coming he ran inside his house and shut the door. The wolf knocked on the door and said "Little pig; little pig; let me come in." "No, no!" said the little pig "by the hair on my chin -i-chin chin, I will not let you come in." "Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in." said the wolf. So he huffed and he puffed and the whole house of straw fell down and the wolf ate up the first little pig.

The next day the wolf walked further along the road. He came to the house of sticks which the second little pig had built. When the second little pig saw the wolf coming he ran inside his house and shut the door. The wolf knocked on the door and said "Little pig; little pig; let me come in." "No, no" said the little pig "by the hair on my chin-i-chin chin, I will not let you come in." "Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in." said the wolf. So he huffed and he puffed and he blew the house down. And the house of sticks fell down and the wolf ate up the second little pig.

The next day the wolf walked further along the road until he came to the house of bricks which the third little pig had built. When the third little pig saw the wolf coming,

he ran inside his house and shut the door. The wolf knocked on the door and said "Little pig; little pig; let me come in." "No, no" said the little pig, "by the hair on my chin-i-chin chin, I will not let you come in." "Then I'll huff, and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in." said the wolf. So he huffed and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed yet again, but still the house of bricks did not fall down. The wolf was very angry but he pretended not to be. He thought 'this is a clever little pig. If I want to catch him I must pretend to be his friend.' So the wolf said to the little pig "Little pig, if you will be ready at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning I'll take you to Farmer Smith's field. We shall find some nice turnips for dinner." "Very well" said the little pig.

But the third little pig was a very clever pig: he knew that the wolf just wanted to eat him, so the next morning the third little pig set off for Farmer Smith's field at 5 o'clock. Then he hurried home before it was 6 o'clock. At 6 o'clock the wolf knocked on the little pig's door and said "Are you ready little pig?" "I've already been to Farmer Smith's field." said the little pig "I've filled my basket with turnips and now they're cooking for my dinner." The wolf was very angry but he tried not to be. Then he said to the little pig "If you are ready at 5 o'clock in the morning, I will take you to Farmer Brown's apple tree. We can pick some really red apples." "Very well" said the little pig.

The next morning the little pig set off at 4 o'clock. He found the apple tree. He was up the tree picking apples when the wolf came along. The little pig was frightened but he pretended not to be. He said "These are fine apples Mr. Wolf: I'll throw you one." He threw down an apple and it rolled down the road. The wolf ran after it. Then the little pig jumped down from the tree; he ran all the way home and shut the door very quickly. The wolf was very angry but he pretended not to be. He went to the little pig's house and he knocked on the door. "Little pig" he said, "if you would be ready at 4 o'clock this afternoon I will take you to the fair. We'll have some fun on the swings and roundabouts." "Very well" said the little pig.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the little pig set off to the fair. He had great fun on the swings and the roundabouts. Then he bought himself a butter churn. A butter churn is like a great big barrel. As the little pig was going home he saw the wolf coming up the hill. The little pig was very frightened so he jumped inside his butter churn. The butter churn began to roll over and over down the hill. It rolled faster and faster and it knocked the wolf down! The wolf did not know what had knocked him down; he was so frightened he ran away as quickly as he could. The little pig jumped out of the butter churn and carried it home.

The next day the wolf came and knocked at the little pig's door. "Little pig, I did not go to the fair yesterday, a great big thing came rolling down the hill and knocked me over." "Ha, Ha, Ha!" laughed the little pig, "that was me inside my butter churn." When the wolf heard this he was very, very, very angry indeed and he said to the little pig "Little pig, I am going to eat you up. I'm going to climb down the chimney to get you." The little pig was very frightened but he said nothing. He put a big pot of water on the fire to boil. The wolf climbed up on the roof, and began to come down the chimney. The little pig took off the lid of the pot and into the pot fell the wolf with

a big splash! That was the end of the wolf. And that is the end of the story of the three little pigs.

The story of the three little pigs is very much like a story that Jesus told in the Bible. Except on this occasion He was talking about what the foundations were that you should build on. I'm going to read it to you. Jesus said this: "Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of mine is like a wise person who built a house on a solid rock." This is a picture of Fastnet Rock and there's Fastnet Lighthouse.

And you can see it is built right into the rock with very strong foundations. And Jesus went on to say "The rain poured down, the rivers flooded and the wind beat on that house and it did not fall because it was built on solid rock. Anyone who hears my teachings and doesn't obey them" Jesus said "is like a foolish person who built a house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded and the wind blew and beat against that house and finally it fell with a crash." And what Jesus is saying is this; "You've got a choice when you listen to His teachings: when you listen to what we say at Razzmatazz, and when you read what God says in His Word, the Bible, you've got a choice of whether you build your life on the rock of Jesus, or just on the shaky foundations of what normal life is about."



When I was 8 years of age I was in a group like this, and somebody was talking about Jesus and they said to me "What you need to do Phil is to ask Jesus to be your Saviour." And I thought about it and thought "Yes – I know all about this but I need to act on it." So when I went home that day, I knelt down and I said to Jesus "I want you to be my Saviour." That was actually 52 years ago and the reason I mention it today is it's my 60th birthday today. I'm celebrating my 60th birthday. And I'm going to celebrate it with you. And what I'm telling you is, I have lived trying to build my life on that foundation of Jesus and I can assure you that 60 years down the line it's been a very good foundation to follow. I can trust God and I've learnt to trust Him day by day. Sometimes I slip up and it doesn't go well, but Jesus doesn't slip up and let me down. This evening before you go home you are going to have a rock cake to remind you about the fact that you need to build your house on a rock; and it's going to have a candle on it to remind you of the Fastnet Lighthouse – a safe place in a terrible storm.

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