

**Chase and Claire have known each other since they were 15. They dated a long time. When they got engaged no one was surprised. I first visited with them in August of 2020, during the worst of the pandemic. They had already exercised great patience in their relationship, so they set the date out a bit, May of 2022, in hopes that the pandemic would abate and their families and friends could gather in person. And here we are.**

**Some things take a long time. To realize your biggest goals, you need vision, commitment and patience. Then one day it all comes together.**

**This is even true in real estate. If you are shopping for a house, you will look at materials that some marketer prepared. You will visit with some agent. But even before you get to that stage, someone had to design the house and build the house, usually without ever knowing who would move into the house. The whole project of securing a home is a metaphor for life. We envision a future. We rely on the skills of other people to help get us there.**

**Claire and Chase have selected scripture readings for us to hear on their wedding day, and no one will be surprised that the gospel they chose deals with real estate. Jesus, the son of a carpenter, instructs his disciples about the importance of foundations. You don't build a house on sand. Otherwise, your dreams will come to nothing. You build it on solid rock. A strong foundation leads to a strong house.**

**Jesus offered this as a metaphor for life as well. The foundation upon which he wants his disciples to build their lives is his words. He doesn't want you merely to be familiar with his words, or to repeat his words, or be able to quote his words. No, he says, "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."**

**Chase and Claire, over the past decade and more, you have heard each other say a lot of words. Today in this cathedral, in the presence of your family and friends, under the eyes of God, you are going to say to each other the most important words of your life. As you know, there is more to marriage than words. The best marriages are couples who act on the words they say and hear.**

**St. Paul gave the Colossians this advice when he considered how they should live. In his metaphor, he treated virtues like clothing: "Put on... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." He's talking about all Christians, not just those who get married. "And over all these," he continues, "put on love, that is the bond of perfection." For Paul, this is how you experience peace—not by hearing nice words, not by having people do nice things for you, but exercising compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love, even when you'd rather just sit down and relax.**

**Claire and Chase, we thank you both for inviting us to share this day with you. We pray that you will hear the words that God speaks to your heart, and that you will live lives of virtue bound by love. That is real estate, the best foundation on which to build your home.**