

Remodel Part 1 – We are His Temple (7-14-2019)

Introduction: Expanding upon the “Solitude” portion of the last sermon from the Sabbath series . . .

Remodel: Finding the palace in the prayer closet

Psalm 127:1a (ESV)

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Note: We let the Lord build the house, because it’s His House to begin with!

3 New Testament examples of the true Temple of God . . .

- **Stephen to the Jews** (context: Acts 7:44-60)

Your father’s made a tabernacle (wilderness), then Solomon built a temple, but . . .

Acts 7:48-51 (ESV)

(48) Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, (49) "'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? (50) Did not my hand make all these things?' (51) "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

Notes: Stephen introduces the idea that the true temple isn’t a building, but that we resist the true “building” God wants to do by resisting the Holy Spirit.

- **Paul to the Gentiles** (context: Acts 17:22-34)

Acts 17:24-28 (ESV)

(24) The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, (25) nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (26) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, (27) that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, (28) for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

Note: God doesn’t live in building we make, but He is near. If we will seek him we will find our home in Him!

- **Paul to the Church** (context: 1 Corinthians 6:1-20)

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV)

(18) Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Note: You don't belong to you. You were made to house the presence of God. Be built and used for His glory!

Beware: The response of the people in these examples: Our Pride & Our Flesh fight against this very concept!

- The Church compromised
- Paul was mocked
- Stephen was killed

So we are called to consider how we are responding to this reality. What are you building your life upon?

- **Paul calls us to reflect honestly** (Context: 1 Corinthians 3:1-15) . . .

“People have laid a foundation in your life. Be careful what you build, because some are wasting their life!”

1 Corinthians 3:16-18 (ESV)

(16) Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (17) If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (18) Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

Note: Are you willing to lay down your pride, set aside your desires, and let Him have the keys?

Let's return to Solomon for some instruction . . .

Psalms 127:1-2 (ESV)

(1) A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (2) It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Note: Scholars believe this was either written by Solomon, or for Solomon by his father David. Either way, it is directly connected to the building of God's temple . . .

- The main point: Let the Lord build it, and rest in His work!

Now, let's look at David final instructions to Solomon about the undertaking of that project!

David's final words to Solomon (context: 1 Chronicles 28:9-21)

1 Chronicles 28:9-10 (ESV)

(9) "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. (10) Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."

David's Instructions:

- Know God
- Serve Him
- With your whole heart & a submitted mind
- Seek God – and you will find him!
- Be strong & do it!

Vs. 11-19 specific instructions given by God to David on all the plans . . .

1 Chronicles 28:20 (ESV)

Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.

- **Jesus takes this seriously, and He's ready to remodel.**

Matthew 21:12-14 (ESV)

(12) And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. (13) He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." (14) And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

Note: Jesus anchors this with Prayer – he cleans some things out & brings healing! That's what happens when we open our lives to his presence!

- We are remade when we decide to house the presence of God!
- This is difficult – everything in us fights this, but it can be done.

Conclusion: For the remainder of this series we are going to reflect on Prayer as the means by which we meet the Lord in the prayer closet, and hand him the keys to the rest of the house - inviting and allowing him to Remodel as He sees fit. Our reflections will come directly from the Lord's Prayer & the Temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness.

Reflection: Primary - (Matthew 6:5-15 & Mathew 4:1-11). Also in Luke's Gospel - (Luke 11:1-13 & Luke 4:1-13)