

“Building His Church”

Summary

Today, we're diving deep into the powerful concept of building - both a place and a people for God's name. This message challenges us to move beyond our comfort zones and embrace our calling as co-laborers with Christ. The key scripture, Ephesians 4:11-16, reminds us of the five-fold ministry gifts and their purpose: to equip the saints for the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ. We're encouraged to identify our spiritual 'leap' - that area of ministry that excites us most - and to actively participate in God's grand design. The story of the Tower of Babel serves as a stark contrast, showing us the folly of building for our own name rather than God's. As we reflect on this, let's ask ourselves: Are we walking well-worn paths that no longer serve a purpose, or are we willing to break free and flow together to the goodness of the Lord? This message invites us to become 'overcomers' - people who sparkle with God's presence and are ready to impact both our local community and the nations.

Main Points – Building His Church

Title: Building God's Place and People: A Call to Action and Growth

Sermon Summary: This sermon focuses on the church's dual mandate to build both a physical place for God's name and a people for His purposes. Pastor Rob emphasizes the importance of identifying and cultivating the five-fold ministry gifts within the congregation, encouraging members to "flow together" in unity and purpose. He stresses the urgency of seizing the present moment of grace to fulfill God's calling, both locally and globally, while highlighting the need for personal and collective spiritual growth.

Key Points:

- Building a physical place for God's name (new church campus)
- Building a people for God's purposes through the five-fold ministry
- The importance of debt reduction for the church's future plans
- Encouraging congregation members to identify their spiritual gifts
- The church's mandate to impact the local region and the nations
- The need for spiritual maturity and "overcoming" in the Christian walk
- The importance of passing on faith to the next generation
- Pastor Rob's upcoming travel and the congregation's role in his absence

Scripture Reference:

- Ephesians 4:11-16 (The five-fold ministry and building up the body of Christ)
- Zechariah 14:8-9 and Jeremiah 2:13 (Living waters flowing out of Jerusalem)
- Psalm 78:9-11 (The importance of remembering God's works)

Stories:

- Pastor Rob's experience of assisting in the birth of a goat
- The story of "Nancy" the goat being served at a church dinner
- The vision of golden sparkles on the St. John's River representing overcomers
- The analogy of goats following an old path even after the fence was removed, illustrating the need to break old habits and embrace change

Small Group Study Guide – Building His Church

Small Group Guide: Building a Place and a People for God's Name

Opening Prayer:

Begin by asking God to guide your discussion and help apply the truths from this sermon to your lives.

Key Takeaways:

1. God is calling us to build both a physical place and a people for His name.
2. The five-fold ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) are given to equip believers for ministry and build up the body of Christ.
3. We are called to God, to each other, and to the world.
4. God wants us to "sparkle" as overcomers and flow together to His goodness.
5. There's an urgency to seize this moment of grace and fulfill our calling.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Rob mentioned two main themes: building a place and building a people for God's name. How do you see these playing out in our church? In your own life?
2. Reflect on the five-fold ministry gifts (Ephesians 4:11). Which one do you feel most drawn to or "leaps" inside you? Why?
3. The sermon emphasized the importance of change and breaking out of old habits. What is one area in your life where you feel God might be calling you to change or step out of your comfort zone?
4. How can we as a group help each other "sparkle" and overcome challenges in our faith journey?
5. Pastor Rob talked about the church flowing out to impact the community and world. What practical steps can we take to be more outward-focused as individuals and as a group?
6. The sermon touched on the idea of "building a people." How can we contribute to building up other believers in our church family?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify Your Gift: Take time this week to prayerfully consider which of the five-fold ministry gifts resonates with you. Look for ways to serve in that area.

2. Debt Reduction: If you feel led, consider how you might contribute to the church's debt reduction efforts as part of "building a place."

3. Community Outreach: Brainstorm one way your small group could serve the local community in the next month.

4. Personal Growth: Choose one "old habit" or comfort zone to challenge this week as you seek to grow in Christ.

5. Encouragement: Reach out to at least one person in the church this week to offer encouragement and support.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His vision for our church and lives. Ask for His help in applying these truths and stepping out in faith to fulfill our calling as individuals and as a body of believers.

Discussion Questions – Building His Church

How can we as individuals and as a church community better embody the concept of 'building a place for His name' rather than our own?

In what ways might we be 'walking old paths' like the goats in the story, and how can we break free from unnecessary habits or traditions?

How does the idea of being 'overcomers who sparkle' challenge or inspire you in your personal spiritual journey?

What practical steps can we take to cultivate and honor all five-fold ministry gifts within our church body?

How might focusing on 'building a people' rather than just a physical place change our approach to ministry and outreach?

In what ways can we better prepare the next generation to carry forward the 'glorious deeds of the Lord', as mentioned in Psalm 78?

How does the concept of 'flowing together to the goodness of the Lord' (Jeremiah 31:12) challenge our understanding of unity and purpose as a church?

What does it mean for us individually and collectively to be 'suitable partners for Christ' in today's world?

How can we balance the tension between seeking personal spiritual growth and contributing to the larger vision of the church?

In what ways might God be calling us to 'sparkle' or 'overcome' in areas of our lives or community that we've been hesitant to address?

Scriptures – Building His Church

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon](#), along with some relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. Ephesians 4:11-16
2. Matthew 16:18
3. Genesis 11:4
4. 1 Kings 8:18
5. Acts 15:14
6. Zechariah 14:8-9
7. Jeremiah 2:13
8. Jeremiah 31:12
9. Psalm 78:9-11
10. Psalm 78:1-4
11. Matthew 6:31-33 (alluded to when discussing seeking first the kingdom)

[General themes and relevant verses:](#)

1. Building the Church:
 - 1 Corinthians 3:9-11
 - 1 Peter 2:5
2. Unity of believers:
 - John 17:20-23
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
3. Five-fold ministry:
 - 1 Corinthians 12:27-28
 - Romans 12:4-8
4. Overcoming:
 - Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21 (promises to overcomers in the seven churches)
 - 1 John 5:4-5
5. Generational impact:
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - Psalm 145:4
6. God's provision:
 - Philippians 4:19
 - Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional – Building His Church

Day 1: Building God's Kingdom

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Devotional: God has given each of us unique gifts and callings to build up His kingdom. Just as the sermon emphasized the five-fold ministry, reflect on how your specific talents and spiritual gifts contribute to the body of Christ. Are you fully utilizing what God has entrusted to you? Consider how you can step out in faith to serve others and advance God's purposes. Remember, we are all called to "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (v.15). Ask God to reveal areas where you need to mature and ways you can actively participate in building His kingdom.

Day 2: Overcoming Through Christ

Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

Devotional: The sermon mentioned "overcomers" who sparkle with God's glory. In Revelation, Jesus promises incredible rewards to those who overcome. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel defeated or discouraged. How can you apply the promises in this passage to your situation? Remember that overcoming isn't about your own strength, but about relying on Christ's power within you. He stands at the door of your heart, inviting you into deeper intimacy and victory. Open yourself to His presence today and ask for the grace to be an overcomer in every aspect of your life.

Day 3: Unity in the Body of Christ

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Devotional: The transcription emphasized the importance of unity and each member functioning properly in the body of Christ. As you read this passage, consider your role within your local church and the broader Christian community. Are you actively contributing your gifts? Are there ways you've been isolating yourself or failing to appreciate the contributions of others? Ask God to help you see fellow believers through His eyes and to show you practical ways to foster unity. Remember, we are all essential parts of one body, designed to work together for God's glory.

Day 4: Answering the Call

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

Devotional: The sermon challenged listeners to "show up" and participate in God's work. Isaiah's encounter with God's holiness led to a profound awareness of his own sinfulness, followed by cleansing and a willingness to be sent. Spend time in God's presence, allowing Him to reveal both His glory and the areas in your life that need purification. Like Isaiah,

how will you respond to God's call? Are there excuses you've been making or fears holding you back? Ask for the courage to say, "Here am I! Send me," and for clarity on the specific ways God is calling you to serve.

Day 5: Building for Eternity

Reading: [Matthew 6:19-24](#)

Devotional: The message emphasized building both a physical place and a spiritual people for God's purposes. Jesus teaches us to focus on eternal treasures rather than temporary earthly gains. Reflect on your priorities and how you're investing your time, talents, and resources. Are you primarily building for this world or for God's eternal kingdom? Ask the Holy Spirit to align your heart with God's purposes. Consider practical steps you can take to shift your focus towards eternal investments – perhaps through increased generosity, intentional discipleship, or using your skills to serve others in Christ's name.