



Series: Beyond Babel

Sermon Title: How To Correct Our broken Ambitions

Date: 6/16/2024

Genesis 11:1-9

Big Idea: What are you building and unifying people around?

What's your why behind your ambition?

Genesis 11:1-4

The events of this account happened after the great flood. Noah has stepped off the boat with his family, and now, there is a large population on the earth. God commanded these people to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. As they multiplied, they began to build in a different direction. Rather than keeping with God's command, they begin to develop new ambitions. Here, we begin to see their why for building a tower - to make a name for themselves. So these people who were traveling found this flat land, and rather than follow God's design for them and his simple command for them, they chose to reject his way and choose their own instead.

Is this your story? Have you been trying to build for your own glory and purpose rather than God's? It's a temptation as old as creation itself. The desire to be our own gods or rulers is strong. How do we know if what we're building is for our glory? Outside of asking ourselves, we can also check to see where we're feeling resistance.

Where are you feeling resistance?

Genesis 11:6-9

God's observation of the people is that they will only increase in their evil like they had before the great flood. This gift of one language and opportunity for incredible unity was used to build a foundation for great evil. God's presence in verse 7 calls back imagery to the Garden with Adam and Eve. After Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, they heard God's presence walk through the garden

So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Genesis 11:8 ESV

It's written in Babylonian accounts that on every brick that made up this tower was inscribed the name of the Babylonian God Marduk. It's said that this artificial mountain became the center of worship in this city. God used what they naturally feared to save them from what they truly should have feared, separation not from each other but from the Lord.

What was meant to be a city of pride and independence became marked as a place of confusion and a pitiful excuse for the true awesomeness of God. **(Genesis 11:8)**

This wasn't planned, but it's God's timing that we land on a message like this in the middle of pride month, a time when our culture celebrates their idea of what "love" is, not God's. When our culture builds its concept of what man and woman are, God's word shows that these towers that are being built in the name of unity and love but, in reality, are demonic influences in our culture; these will not stand.

While this is the loudest example within the context of this month, let's not turn our eyes to pride month and think oh yes, that tower must fall, and neglect the towers within our own lives. We are broken and sinful people all the same. The sin in our lives, although it may not be as visible, is just as in need of Jesus as those who are confused and captive to the teaching of the world.

Does your "unity" point to and come from Jesus?
Genesis 11:27-30

Now, this might seem like a bunch of random dads and sons and lands, but there is a beautiful story woven into these families, and it's not so much because of who they are in this moment but because of how their stories will unfold as they choose to follow God.

This line of decedents is from where Jesus comes. Because even here at the beginning of scripture, even immediately after the scattering of Babylon, God was preparing the path for our Messiah. God uses the exiles of Babylon, one of the most corrupt and self-centered cities in history, to usher in the seeds of the coming Messiah. And if God can use them, he can most certainly use you.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **The English language is spoken around the world today. Does God view that as an issue the same way He did in the days of Babel? Explain**
- **Whenever you do something, how do you Determine whether or not it's God's will for you?**
- **Are there idols in your life that God is separating you from? If so, how?**
- **Has God given you any gifts that are being used for selfish motives rather than His good? Explain**