

Session 9 - Committing to Build a Dwelling Place

1. Introduction

- a. There are a number of different major storylines that run throughout the whole of Scripture. One of those major narratives is God establishing a kingdom of priests who will worship Him exclusively and expand His domain upon the earth.
- b. This story began with Adam and Eve, the first priests, who were charged with the dominion mandate of Genesis 1. The story quickly moves to Abraham, followed by Isaac, and finally Jacob and his sons (Israel). Then we see the narrative jumping to Moses, followed by David and his son Solomon. Finally we come to Christ, the great king priest, who establishes His church as a corporate kingdom of eternal priests.
- c. Not only do we walk in this identity now but John tells us multiple times in the book of Revelation that this will also be our eternal identity; that is, how we relate to God and the world. In the age to come we will still be priests who worship God alone and kings who exercise the rule of God upon the earth in conjunction with Christ.
- d. Additionally we see that every time God began to restore this identity in His people (we see this primarily in Israel in 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles) it was because He desired to do something in and through His people.
 - i. The raising up and establishing of the priesthood always precedes the move of God upon the earth. Therefore whenever we see the Holy Spirit working to reestablish this identity and function in His people it is a sign to us that God desires to pour out His Spirit in a powerful way.
 - ii. In the Bible we see Davidic worship taking place in the days of - **Solomon** (*2 Chr. 5-7*) - 101 B.C., **Jehoshaphat** (*2 Chr. 20*) - 896 B.C., **Joash** (*2 Chr. 23-24*) - 835 B.C., **Hezekiah** (*2 Chr. 29-30*) - 726 B.C., **Josiah** (*2 Chr. 35*) - 623 B.C., **Ezra** (*Ezra 3:10-13*) - 536 B.C. and **Nehemiah** (*Neh. 12:28-47*) - 446 B.C.
- e. Again, as I've said repeatedly, the global prayer movement is not the only thing God is doing in the earth but I believe we must acknowledge that it is one of the major things God is doing in the earth today.
- f. Consequently I'd like to examine what our role is in partnering with God to see His desire for praying and worshipping communities all over the globe.

2. Psalm 132 - David's Vow

- a. We could look at a number of responses the Bible gives when it comes to God restoring His people to their identity as a kingdom of priests and raising up His house of prayer.
 - i. Again house of prayer does not denote organizational structure but an internal value system that is outwardly expressed in some way. To be a house of prayer

then is simply to be a community that inwardly values prayer and worship and therefore outwardly gives themselves to the place of prayer and worship.

- b. King David gave us the blueprint for how we are to respond in our hearts and with our lives towards the prophetic invitation of God. We would be wise to spend much time considering and thinking about David's vow to see God's will come to pass in light of what God has declared about this city and region.
- c. When reading 2 Samuel 6 and 7 it may seem that the Temple and the davidic system of worship was David's idea but from 1 Chronicles 28 we clearly see that it was God's idea and that David was "*made*" to understand all of the plans for the Temple.
- d. So it was the Lord who invited David into the building and establishing of the Temple just like it was the Lord who invited Moses. We find David's response to this invitation spoken about in Psalms 132.

*"Lord remember David and all his afflictions; **How he swore to the Lord, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob**: 'Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.'" - Psalms 132:1-5*

- e. Many theologians believe that this is Solomon writing in remembrance of his father David. Whether this is the whole vow in its entirety or just a summary of it we don't exactly know but we are given the spirit of the vow here in Psalm 132.
- f. David vowed within his own heart to establish a resting place for God on the earth no matter the cost.
 - i. Under the New Covenant we know that God does not dwell in buildings made by human hands but in our hearts and in the midst of the worshipping community.
 - 1. One of my favorite theologians Allen P. Ross rightly points out that the need for a sacred space is not for God but for ourselves. When we have a dedicate place where we can remove distraction and focus solely on God our spiritual lives will benefit from it.
 - ii. The spirit of this vow then is not to establish a large ministry or a nice facility but to contribute to the formation of the corporate priesthood (a prayerful church) in our city and region.
- g. Regularly do we read about men and women bringing God into remembrance of *His* promise or word but here the psalmist brings God into remembrance of *David's* vow and the afflictions he bore because of it.
- h. David made a commitment to the Lord that he would rearrange his life in every area required to see the purpose of God accomplished on the earth. This heart of abandon is viewed as radical by some but Jesus requires whole-heartedness in every area of our life.
 - i. When he speaks of his "*house*" and all the comforts of his "*chamber*" David is saying that rather than seeking to build his own comfort, home, ministry, family, or calling he is committed to partnering with God's dream for his city.

- i. There is always a stigma that comes with passion, devotion, and whole-heartedness. David's passion for God's presence and to see a dwelling place for God established in Jerusalem was the cause of him having to bear that same stigma.

*"I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; because **zeal for You house has eaten me up**, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to the. Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards." - Psalm 69:8-12*

- j. David's zeal for the house of the Lord affected even his closest relationships, his family. This is typical for the family of Christ as well. Many times the people that resist passion and devotion the most are other believers.
 - i. **Reproach** - David bore reproach because of his zeal for God (v. 7,9,10). Many people draw back because of the fear of man.
 - ii. **Shame** - David did not let his past failures or weaknesses disqualify him from partnering with God.
 - iii. **Stranger** - David's own family thought he was too zealous and treated him like a stranger rather than a brother.
 - iv. **Zeal** - David's passion and zeal caused him to be scoffed at and mocked by many people. They thought he was over the top with his zeal.
 - v. **Fasting** - His sacrifice and embracing of a life of weakness seemed foolish to others and also was the cause of mocking.
 - vi. **Byword** - David became the punch line of jokes all over town.
 - vii. **Sit at the gate** - The leaders of the day, both civil and religious, joined in the mocking and scoffing at David. They looked down upon him.
 - viii. **Drunkards** - Even the town drunks started singing songs about David. He literally was the joke of the whole city.
- k. When we put Psalm 132 and 69 together a few things jump out concerning David's heart for God's dwelling place.
 - i. It seems that David made this vow when he was a young man not when he was king. By the time he became king everyone loved David and he was considered the greatest man in the entire nation. If David was being ridiculed for his zeal by the authority figures of his day and by the drunkards it definitely wasn't while he was king.
 - ii. If that is true then it means that David stewarded the dream of God in his heart for years, possibly even decades. His faithfulness was one of the reasons why the Lord could entrust something so grand to him.
 - iii. It also means that David's zeal was not emotionalism but was deeply rooted in a revelation of the heart of God to be with and near His people. This also empowered him to keep from growing bitter at those who mocked him.

- I. This zeal was so intense and touched the heart of the Lord so much that Jesus would have this same zeal attributed to Him when He cleanses the Temple for the first time at the very beginning of His earthly ministry.

*“And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Fathers’ house a house of merchandise!’ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **‘Zeal for Your house and eaten Me up.’**” - John 2:16-17*

- m. David’s passion for God’s presence and his zeal to see God’s prophetic word come to pass in his city touched every area of his life. There was nothing that went untouched. David partnered with the Lord in 3 major ways:
 - i. Financially
 - ii. Relationally
 - iii. Time

3. Financial Partnership

- a. David was told from the very beginning that he was not going to build the Temple (1 Chron. 17:4-5, 1 Kings 5:3). Let’s examine that reality for a brief second.
 - i. We know from above that David from a young age had been gripped with the mission to one day build a resting place for the Lord. It had consumed him for years.
 - ii. The first thing he does as king is to retrieve the ark so that he can build a permanent dwelling place for God in Israel that was suitable for Him. David’s zeal for this was most likely at an all time high because he was finally in the position to bring to pass the vow he had made before the Lord in his heart (Psalm 132:1-5).
 - iii. It is in this moment that David is told by the Lord that he will not be able to build the Temple! How devastating for David. All he has ever wanted to do for God is build Him a suitable resting place and now that he can the Lord will not allow him to.
 - iv. In other words David’s ability to intimately get involved in the building of Temple was all of a sudden more limited that what he wanted. His heart burned for the Temple (which is why he established the tabernacle for the time being) but was wasn’t able to give himself to see it built fully like he would want to.
- b. Many of you may even this same tension concerning the establishing of the House of Prayer here. Maybe even during this 10 week intensive you have felt the stirring of the Lord and you have thought, “I wish I had more time or ability to get involved but I can’t because of x, y, or z.
- c. You are a similar tension to what David found himself in. So what did David do when his options for involvement were limited?

- d. The first thing David did we are told is begin to rearrange his financial life to be able to fund the prayer movement in his day and he began to save so that he could eventually fund the building of the Temple when his son Solomon became king.
- e. David's giving was radical but it was calculated and that is important to realize. We have said many times that prayer takes the whole man, our entire being. David understood this in a profound way and was therefore enabled to give.
- f. He understood that prayer and financial provision work on the same principle of partnership. Through prayer we partner with the heart of God to see His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. We can also partner with the heart and purpose of God in our generation through our financial partnership. David understood this (you can see this principle of partnership in finances every time the priesthood/temple was being established or restored).
- g. We are told that David two different ways:
 - i. First, he financially supported 288 singers and 4000 musicians to worship before the Lord. For these singers and musicians this was their full-time occupation. They were in charge of ministering to the Lord. And David understood by giving to them he was partnering with them in their work.

*“Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. **If you send them forward on their journey** in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, **that we may become fellow workers for the truth.**” - 3 John 1:5-8*

- ii. Second, David also saved for the future construction of the Temple that Solomon would one day build.

*“Now for the house of my God I have prepared **with all my might**...Moreover, **because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God,** over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses: the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of the craftsmen. **Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?**”*

- iii. This section of scripture is striking for a number of reasons:
 - 1. David the best he could/with all his might (Matthew 22:37-38).
 - 2. David gave out of affection that was rooted in the prophetic invitation of the Lord. David therefore saw financially giving as a way to partner with God's desire for his generation and to see his prophetic destiny come to pass.

3. David gave out of the national treasury 12 million pounds of gold worth over \$175 billion by today's price of gold. Additionally he gave 120 million pounds of silver worth over \$23 billion by today's price of silver (1 Chronicles 22:14)
 4. He also gave out of his personal treasury (over and about the offerings, tithes, and national funding) 360,000 pounds of gold which today would equate to roughly \$5.3 billion. He also gave roughly \$169 million of silver out of his own personal account (1 Chronicles 29:4).
 5. Lastly, David invites the nation to join him in financial partnership and they respond with rejoicing and outgive David.
- h. What David was not able to physically do he was able to accomplish financially as he chose to partner with the prophetic word of the Lord through intentional giving.

4. Relationally

- a. The next way we see David partnering with the Lord to build a dwelling place is through his close relationships, primarily Solomon.
- b. Although it is common knowledge the fact that David was committed to building God's dwelling place with his family. To David this was not a solo endeavor. He was the one with the dream and he was the one who made the vow and suffered all its consequences.
- c. Yet David chose to respond properly to the Lord's word and involve his son (and most likely other members of his family) in the preparations for building the Temple. Throughout 1 and 2 Chronicles we see David speaking to Solomon and likewise we see Solomon referencing his father after David had passed away.

"Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel." - 1 Chronicles 22:6

- d. In 1 Chronicles 22 see David sharing his prophetic history with Solomon and charging him to obey the word of the Lord and give his life to see that prophetic word come to pass.
- e. David models for us something I believe is true with all my heart. That when God calls a man or woman to do something there is a calling upon the whole family to properly respond as well. David brings his family into the prophetic destiny that has been spoken over his life.
- f. One of the most powerful ways we can partner with the Lord to build the House of Prayer is to bring our families into what God is doing and what we believe He has spoken to us.
 - i. Again, prayer takes the whole man, including our family. When a man or woman brings their spouse and children with them to contend for the prophetic destiny of their city and generation it is a powerful act of intercession.

- g. The Bible has much to say about the power of generations and passing down a spiritual inheritance to our children. David understood that and modeled it in an intentional way.
- h. Solomon was raised in the context of contending for the prophetic word of the Lord to come to pass. We are called to do the same thing.
- i. Not only was Solomon raised in a context and environment that centered around the prophetic word of the Lord but David actually empowered Solomon to become an active participant in the storyline.

“So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.” - 1 Chronicles 23:1

- j. David allowed Solomon to take the reigns of the nation before he died to empower Solomon to lead. I believe this further solidified Solomon's heart to work and contend to see the word of the Lord come to pass.
- k. The point is this: By inviting others (both family and others) into the vision God has for our city and generation we are performing an act of intercession and faith believing that God is going to bring this to pass and therefore we want everyone possible to be part of it.
- l. Sharing the vision and pass it on to others is a powerful way to partner with the Lord to see His word come to pass. There are multitudes of people that God has called and gifted to help create a culture of prayer in our city and we need all of them to see it come to pass.

5. Time

- a. Lastly, and maybe most obviously, David spend long hours in the place of prayer and worship contending for the word of the Lord to come to pass. Many of David's Psalms were written in the place of prayer and David sat in the tabernacle before the ark ministering to the Lord.
- b. As a king David was surely a very busy man. He was leading the most powerful nation on the planet. Still David decided to rearrange his time so that he could give himself to the place of prayer and worship. This surely involved saying no to other legitimate things.
- c. David was driven by two things to rearrange his schedule to be found faithful in the house of prayer:
 - i. The beauty of the Lord (Psalms 27:4).
 - ii. Zeal for the prophetic word of God to come to pass (Psalms 69:9).
- d. Likewise, every time we come to gather with the church of the city to worship and pray together we are exercising our faith to see the prophetic word of the Lord come to pass in our city. With every sacrificed minute and every rearranged morning we are partnering with the Lord in a powerful act of intercession to see His will come to pass in our region.

- e. Never underestimate the power of simply showing up. I have heard it said before that 90% is just showing up. Whether that percentage is accurate can be debated but that is besides the point here. The point is that by simply showing up to be in the seats and engage our heart we are declaring our intention to partner with Jesus.

6. Conclusion

- a. Over the past roughly 3 years I've had dozens of people approach me with tears in their eyes. Some tears were that of condemnation while others were sincere tears of hunger and brokenness.
- b. These individuals all say roughly the same thing: "I wish I could be more involved in PHOP but I just can't with my _____."
- c. The truth is that some people may rarely be able to make it to a prayer meeting on a regular basis because of their work schedule. Others are not musically talented at all and so they will never be a part of a worship team. Many others are not financially able to give much financially to the house of prayer.
- d. My message to all these groups is the same:

Do not be condemned! Figure out what you have the ability to do and do it with all your heart!

- e. For some this will be getting involved in some way, shape, or form. And for others it will mean becoming a monthly financial partner with the house of prayer.
- f. It is all partnership and as we have seen at length these last 9 weeks that is what God is after and what prayer is all about. He wants a bride that will partner with Him.
 - i. Again, we cannot think about PHOP as a building or even as just a prayer meeting that happens a few times a week. It is a people, a culture, and a lifestyle of worship and prayer that we are looking to build.
 - ii. Therefore when we talk about supporting the vision of worship and prayer in our city there are many ways to do that.
 - iii. Whole-hearted devotion to the purpose of God for our region is primarily this:

Are you willing to surrender, rearrange, and reprioritize every aspect of your life if and when necessary for the sake of the glory of Jesus in our city?

- iv. This question can include changing our schedules to attend prayer meetings, giving finances, conquering your fears of inadequacy and joining the worship team, calling your family to pray together throughout the week, reading books on prayer and the history of revival, living in purity and holiness, taking steps of boldness in the world and become the vehicle by which God answers our prayers for revival.
- v. All of these things and more are included in shouldering the mission of God for our region.

- g. We want to be like David and put everything on the table for the vision; not for a ministry or organization, but for the glory of God being magnified in our region.

So how has God called you to partner with Him in establishing a culture of worship and prayer in our city? And how are you going to faithfully steward that responsibility? Whatever it is I only implore you by the grace of God to do it with love in your heart, praise on your lips, and faithfulness in your life.