

House Building (outdoor baptism service)

Reconnect – August 28, 2011

Text: Psalm 127; Luke 6:47-49

Key Thought: Putting God first in your life is the key to lasting success and eternal significance.

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. (Psalm 127:1, NLT)

Pre-Intro: Psalm 127 – “Unless the Lord builds the house...”

Intro: Quest for success

- Somewhere between college and thirty, a lot of people have a revelation – an awakening – a “moment”
- They realize that they want a house – and, as they look around at their friends and peers, they further realize that not only do they actually NEED a house, but they actually NEED the RIGHT house
- One that is at least as nice as their peers, if not nicer – and one that will be the first in a line of bigger and better houses – that where and how you live “matters” – the quest for success is ON!
- In fact, once the “house hunger” is awakened in a person – the MLS listings, the leveraging of mortgages, the tracking of interest rates, the surveying of neighbourhoods – it’s hard to satisfy
- And, they often feel the need to try to infect others around them with the same virus

Solomon – no stranger to money

- The poem that was read just now was written by Solomon – the wisest man of his day and the richest
- He was no stranger to houses – having 700 wives and 300 concubines, well, you certainly need a place to put them – and he had built himself a palace that was twice as big as the magnificent temple that he had built for God
- And yet hear what he said:

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.

Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good.

It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night,

Anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.

Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior’s hands.

How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!

He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

- He says that if God is not in it, the quest for success is a losing battle – that whatever you manage to build for yourself will slip through your fingers
- Money slips away, fame fades, strength dwindles – what endures?
- And then he makes a jump from stuff – from what we surround ourselves with – to family – to the PEOPLE we surround ourselves with

The Lesson

- But the lesson is the same – what God gives is the best part of life, and the things that God give are what really last
- Everything else is sandcastles and clouds in the sky
- Over time, the focus of our life changes from what we can get, to whether we will be remembered – we shift from what can be seen to what can't be seen – from stuff to significance
- We want to make a lasting difference – and God is the only one who can do that
- He is eternal, and he offers that share in forever to everyone who will hand him control of their “house” – their life and their future
- Today, we are witnesses to people who are “handing over the keys” to God – through baptism and through dedication, people are aligning their lives with God and his priorities – and setting themselves up to make a lasting difference, to live lives of meaning and purpose

Key Thought:

Putting God first in your life is the key to lasting success and eternal significance.

“I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.” **Jesus, in Luke 6:47-49, NLT**

Response: baptisms