Building God a House

I’m going to read from 1 Chronicles 17 from the ESV beginning in verse 1:

1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent.

- David sees his house and compares it to God’s house.
  - David recognizes that he lives in a fine house.
    - He is the king of a mighty nation.
    - His house is luxurious.
    - Nothing has been wasted on David’s earthly dwelling.
    - He has everything he could ever want.
    - He has everything he could ever need.
  - But God’s house stands in stark contrast.
    - David has just recently returned the Ark to Jerusalem
    - And the dwelling place of God is hidden by tent.
    - We’re not talking about the tabernacle of Moses
    - We’re talking about a hastily prepared tent to house the tabernacle that has been in captivity for all these years.
  - David is stirred in his heart as he compares his station in life, his place of comfort and ease to that dwelling place of God.
    - It’s a burden that drives him to the prophet Nathaniel in the 17th chapter of Chronicles.
    - He wants to build God a house!
    - He wants to make a dwelling place that will be worthy of God!
    - David recognizes that there’s something wrong when he, as king, has received a bigger portion than God has!

- Now I understand tonight that we don’t live in castles and the house of God is not a tent.
  - But there’s an underlying principle that is very important:
    - David wasn’t comfortable with the idea that God was being neglected in his life.
    - David wasn’t satisfied with giving God just a little portion of his life.
    - David could’ve looked across the kingdom and seen all that God blessed him with and been content to let the glory of God dwell in a tent.
    - But he had enough reverence and respect for God in his life to recognize that its not right when I get the lions share and God gets a meager portion!
Some of us need to wake up and realize – God deserves more of your life than you are giving him!

- Some are satisfied to relegate God to Sunday and Wednesday.
- Some are satisfied to give him a meager portion of your life.
- But that’s not the attitude of David.
- He said I want to build something for God!
- I want to establish something that gives God glory
- I want my life to be about more than just me!
- I want my heritage to be about more than just my house.
- He would forever be remembered as the king who established Israel’s dominion.
- His reign would go down in the record books as the greatest that Israel ever had.

- But all he could see was God living in a tent!
  - That’s all that mattered!
  - Nothing else was important!
  - He was possessed by a desire!
  - I want to build God a house!
  - I want to establish something for him.
  - I want to leave behind a legacy for the glory of God!

- I wish somebody would get the spirit of David in this house.
  - I wish someone would become obsessed with doing a work for God!
  - I wish someone would get your priorities rearranged and realize that God deserves so much more of you and your life!

So David comes to the prophet and expresses his desire.

- 2 And Nathan said to David, “Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.”
- 3 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,
- 4 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in.
- 5 For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling.
- 6 In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

Watch this:

- David desired to build God a house.
  - But God never required that a house be built.
  - He’s always dwelt in a tent.
  - He’s never had a house!
  - He never asked for a house!
- David could have been content.
He’s done everything that God ever asked of him.
He’s followed after God.
Even in his failing, he turned his heart back to God and made things right with God.
He’s a man that has pursued God,
  • he has walked with God,
  • he has been obedient to God
  • and he could have just been satisfied with where he was.

But he wanted to build God a house that God never asked for!
Some of us are so caught up in the right and wrong, in toeing the line, in fulfilling everything that we feel like God has required of us.
  • That we feel justified in the fact that we’ve done everything that he asked.

We feel satisfaction, maybe even a little sanctified pride, in the fact that we’ve done everything that God required of us.

Can I tell you something notable about the heart of David?
His legacy isn’t that he did everything that God wanted him to do.
  • His legacy isn’t that he fulfilled every command that God placed upon him.
    o His legacy is that He desired to do what God never required!

He said, I want to build you a house!
I want to build you an elaborate dwelling place.
  • I want to bless my God.
  • I want to make room for him in my life.
  • I want to establish his dwelling place right here in my kingdom!

God didn’t ask for it.
  • But David desired to do it!
  • And that DESIRE moved the heart of God

7 Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel,
8 and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
9 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.
And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, 10 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies.

Moreover, I declare to you that the Lord will build you a house.

God was so moved by David’s desire to build him a house that he turned the blessing around and promised to build David a house!
Let me tell you something tonight:
- David couldn’t build God a house!
- He had blood on his hands.
  - In a moment of passion he committed a horrible sin.
  - He killed an innocent man.
  - His hands were bloodstained.
  - He didn’t qualify to build God a house.
- But BECAUSE of his DESIRE to build God a house
  - God promised I WILL BUILD YOU A HOUSE!
- I come to tell somebody in this place tonight that if you will make a place for God in your life, He will make a place for you!
  - If you can find within yourself the desire to build God a house;
  - If you can find within your life the desire to establish a lasting testimony to the glory of God;
  - If you can find the desire to go beyond what has been required of you and desire to do something extravagant for God;
    - If you will honor God – He will honor you!
    - If you will serve him – he will walk right alongside you.
    - If you will glorify his name in the earth – he will declare your name in the heavens.
    - If you will desire to establish a house for his glory in this life, he will establish a lasting eternal heritage for you in heaven!
- Some of us want extravagant blessings from God but we haven’t even considered building him a house!
  - If you will make room for God in your life, he will make room for you in his kingdom!
  - If you will shift the focus from yourself and your wants and your needs and your petty desires and turn the focus towards God and living a life that blesses Him
    - If you will purpose in your heart to build him a house – He will build you a house!

The term “house” as used by God in this case is indicative of a lineage, a dynasty, a lasting legacy.
- God’s promise to David was not a house of cedar.
- God’s promise to David was that he would establish his offspring!
- • 11 When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.
- • 12 He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.
- • 13 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you,
- • 14 but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.”
Let me bring it home tonight:

- If you want to have a godly home, purpose in your heart to build God a house!
  - If you want to leave behind a godly heritage, purpose in your heart to build God a house!
- If you want to your children and their children after them to be blessed by the very hand of God – Purpose in your heart to build God a house!
  - **Establish the glory of God in your life and he will build your house!**
- We get it backwards.
  - We build our house first,
  - we establish our homes first.
  - We take care of our business first
    - and we give God what’s left.
- God honored David because David desired to make God the most prominent thing in his life.
  - David wanted to build God a house that would be the glory of Israel.
  - In other kingdoms the king’s house was representative of the glory of the kingdom.
  - But David wanted to build God a house that would far outshine anything else in the kingdom – the glory of that house would be known throughout all the world!
    - God’s name would be glorified, not David’s!
    - Because of the glory of God’s house!
- If you want God to get concerned about your business, make him top priority,
  - put him above all else,
  - seek his glory,
  - seek his honor,
  - seek to live a life that magnifies him
    - and He will establish your life, your house and your legacy for generations to come!
    - God said to David, I’m about to do something in your home that will be talked about for generations to come.
    - I brought you from the sheepfold and made you a king.
    - I established you from nothing and made you the greatest of all.
    - And Because of your desire to build me a house – I’m going to establish your lineage forever more.
- Let me tell you the true impact of that promise.
  - Jesus Christ is born in the lineage of David and is the ultimate fulfillment of the promise that God made to David in our text.
    - Because David sought to glorify God in his generations,
    - Because David sought to build God a house in his life,
    - Future generations would look upon the messiah and cry out – Jesus, thou son of David!
      - All because of his DESIRE to bless God!

Close
Let me put it to you in the words of Jesus:

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

I come to appeal to somebody tonight to consider how you’ve prioritized your life.

- Jesus doesn’t just command that the disciples refrain from the pursuit of temporal things.
  - What he commands of them is that they not establish these things as top priority of their lives.
  - The gentiles, ignorant of the grace of God, unaware of the divine provision of God, run to and fro seeking after these temporal blessings.
  - Their whole life is defined by the pursuit of temporary things.
  - They get up in the morning and rush off to work.
  - They toil and labor all day to fill their pockets with money.
  - Only to spend that money upon temporary things that are fleeting, momentary and passing away.
  - It's the vicious cycle of their life.
  - They are defined by their pursuit of material things – it takes top priority over everything else in their life.
- But Jesus puts forward this revolutionary idea:
  - Instead of centering your life on the temporal, fleeting things of this world.
  - Instead of being wrapped up in your pursuit of consumable blessings.
  - Seek FIRST the kingdom of God!
    - Turn your heart FIRST to the desire to glorify God.
    - Make Him and the pursuit of Him the most important thing in your life
  - And He will take care of the rest!

It’s easy to get caught up in the daily grind.

- It’s easy to allow our lives to become identified by the pursuit of temporal things.
  - It’s easy to always put ourselves first, to always take care of our needs and our desires first
  - And to give God a secondary place in our lives.
- It would be easy to sit in the king house and never give a thought to the fact that the glory of God dwells in a tent!

But I come to tell you tonight that there is a special blessing reserved in heaven for those that will make the Lord their heart’s desire.
o There’s a special blessing for those that would become possessed with a desire to build God a house!
  ▪ Not a structure of cedar, not a building of stones and mortar.
  ▪ But rather to make the central pursuit of your life the desire to bring glory to God, to establish the glory of his name, to declare his majesty far and wide that the whole world might know his name!

o David’s desire was a whole lot more than just a temple.
  ▪ David’s desire was an extravagant structure that kings and queens would travel from around the world to see the glory of God’s house!
    • It was a testimony to the incredible glory of the God who took him from the sheepfold to the palace.

o I feel compelled of the Holy Ghost to tell someone in this place tonight that you need to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness!
  ▪ I feel compelled to tell you tonight to turn your desire away from temporary earthly things and to purpose in your heart that God will receive all the glory in your life!

o If you will purpose to build him a house, he will build your house.
  ▪ He will establish your footsteps.
  ▪ He will bless the generations that follow after you.
  ▪ He will take care of you and your life
    • If you will make it your purpose to bless is name in everything you do!