



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“The House”

Ps. James Lowe– 4/2/2017

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. King Solomon offered as a sacrifice 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. The priests stood at their posts; the Levites also, with the instruments for music to the Lord that King David had made for giving thanks to the Lord—for his steadfast love endures forever—whenever David offered praises by their ministry; opposite them the priests sounded trumpets, and all Israel stood. Thus, Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time. And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.’

2 Chronicles 7:4-18

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's one thing that your dream house must have?
- What do you think is the main difference between a house and a home?
- Did you grow up going to church or not? What's your fondest memory from church?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

The narrative of the dedication of Solomon's temple gives us very important insight of the purpose and relevance of the temple. The way Solomon acted and prayed in that special occasion serves to provide a model for us.

I. **God's House is a Place of Sacrifice.**

- When the temple was finished, Solomon offered sacrifice to the Lord. God accepted the sacrifices and manifested himself with fire from heaven. We all want the fire of God to fall, but we don't want to offer the sacrifice.
- For seven years, they had been building the temple in Mount Moriah and now it was completed. It was in Mount Moriah that Abraham had been willing to sacrifice his most valuable offering: Isaac. With that sense of gratitude and reverence Solomon wanted to express his worship to the one true God by offering sacrifices.
- Isaiah 66:2 says the whole earth belongs to the Lord. He doesn't need anything from us, therefore we shouldn't feel forced or manipulated to do or give anything. But as Solomon, when we receive a revelation of who God is we should want to worship Him. Everything we offer to God is a reminder that the glorious presence of God is here.
- We should not be afraid that God will ask too much and that we won't have enough for ourselves. Solomon finished his house and the temple at the same time. God was present in both activities.

II. **God's House is a House of Prayer**

- When you call upon the Lord, He answers by showing you great and mighty things. By this definition, we can imply there is a common ground for moving forward either to the glory of God or for our selfish reasons.
- In the house of God, you discover what is going on in God's heart and mind. It is not a matter of how many tears come out of our eyes for God to have pity on us. It is a matter of agreeing with God for answers to come down to us.
- Jesus reaffirmed the most essential reason for the house of God, and it is to be a house of prayer. A house of prayer for individuals, communities and the nation.
- The only way the temple we have built will fulfill its purpose is if we gathered as a church and pray for God to manifest his presence in our lives and in our nation.

III. **God's House is a House of Purpose**

- As Solomon was dedicating the temple, he knew that no house could contain God (The universe is not large enough to contain Him). He knew the temple was to be a place where men might come to meet God and find their purpose in him.
- Solomon prayed for his nation, and God renewed his covenant with Israel and with Solomon's family. Solomon wasn't seeking the endurance of his dynasty when he offered sacrifice or dedicated the temple, but because he sought to honor God, the covenant with David was renewed with Solomon.
- As we seek to honor God and his house, he will affirm our own lives and destinies.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What is the Lord leading you to sacrifice?
- Have you had a revelation of the glory of God? How did you respond to it?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that the presence of the Lord will be manifested in our church; that people who come may have an encounter with him.
- Pray that you will have a renewed revelation of who God is and respond to it in a sacrifice of worship.
- Pray for our nation to go back to God. Pray that spiritual revival will come to our nation.