



Life Group Study Notes

“Dedicating God’s Dwelling Place”

Ps. Bruce Fidler - February 19, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

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

- Have you ever had an unexpected out-of-town visitor show up at your home? Who was it?
- If you have a guest stay at your home, what do you do to make them comfortable?
- If you stay at someone’s house, what would be a nice act of hospitality to make you at home?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org.

On Wednesday, March 8, at 7pm, Bethel will dedicate our new sanctuary and facilities.

The Tabernacle – God’s Temporary Dwelling Place for Israel

Exodus 25:1–9 (ESV) *The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me... And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.*

- God was the architect. Moses was the builder.
- The purpose of the tabernacle was that God might dwell in the midst of Israel.

Exodus 39:32 (NIV) *So all the work on the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed. The Israelites did everything just as the Lord commanded Moses.*

Exodus 40:33b–35 (NIV) *And so Moses finished the work. Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*

- The tabernacle was dedicated after it was built according to God's instructions.
- God responds by filling his dwelling place with his presence and glory!

The Temple – God’s Permanent Dwelling Place for Israel

1 Chronicles 28:11–12, 19 (NIV) *Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the...temple... He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind... “All this,” David said, “I have in writing as a result of the Lord’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.”*

- God was the architect. Solomon was the builder.
- The purpose of the temple was that God might dwell in the midst of Israel.

2 Chronicles 5:13–14 (NIV) *The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord... Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.*

2 Chronicles 7:1–3 (NIV) *When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it...*

- The temple was dedicated after it was built according to God's instructions.
- God responds by filling his dwelling place with his presence and glory!

The Church – God's Eternal Dwelling Place

Ephesians 2:14–22 (NIV) *Consequently, you are...fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

- The multi-ethnic church is God's eternal dwelling place.

Jesus is the architect and the builder of God's eternal dwelling place.

- Jesus gave instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Ac 1:2) and charged them to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything he commanded (Mt 28:18-20).
- Matthew 16:18 (NIV) *"[I] will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

Acts 2:1–4 (NIV) *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

- Jesus had made disciples and built them into his church according to the Father's will.
- Like the tabernacle and temple dedications, God filled the disciples with his presence and glory.

Bethel's Upcoming Dedication Service

We must dedicate ourselves to the Lord, and not merely the new building.

Joshua 3:5 (NIV) *Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."*

- This is a prophetic word from Jesus to us as a congregation and as individuals.
- Let's dedicate ourselves afresh to the Lord and to carrying out his mission to make disciples of all nations as we reach a city to touch the world.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

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

- When was the last time you had a significant encounter with the Holy Spirit?
- What could you do to prepare yourself to dedicate yourself afresh to God?
- What do you want to see God do through us as we move into our new facility?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

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

- Ask God to speak to us about how he would want each of us to prepare for this next season.
- Ask God to help us consecrate our hearts in preparation for this next season.
- Ask God to fill us afresh with his presence, power, and glory to fulfill his mission.