

Joint Ventures, The Temple, pt.3

Intro. 1. Review Joint Venture idea & Cross Over connection; 3. Brief review with principles. Noah: The environment you live in will determine your spiritual temperature. Moses: Liberal giving is an outward response to the goodness of God. 4. Pictures of the 1st Temple. Summary Statement: Worship facilities are mankind's initiatives to honor God by sacrificially building places to encounter Him from one generation to the next.

“Worship facilities are mankind's initiative”

- This defines the source of the work.
- With David, it originated in his heart – 2 S.7.2; 1 K.8.17ff; .
- God did not place this desire upon Him; He saw what he had and compared it to the tent that housed the ark of the covenant. God didn't request it, 2 S.7.5–7.
- The tabernacle of David is something he did w/o God's direction – 2 Sam.6. Explain the Tabernacle of David.
 - Images
 - Who gave him permission to do this?
- God did not ask for the Tabernacle of David nor the Temple, but David wanted to do something for God. Would God have been upset if David had not raised the money to build the Temple? Probably not. These things were initiated from his desires.
- Appl – sometimes we super spiritualize things. We think that unless the Lord gives us a direct word we shouldn't do anything. This may be the case for some matters, but others, it's the desires of your heart. What do you want to do?
- Appl –God has placed in all his children a desire to do something great for Him. We might not know what it is, so look to your honorable desires and see where they may be leading you. Also, where do you have authority or ability and where do you see the gap or opening?
 - David saw the gap and he had authority, so he set out to do it.

- God gave him the specifics, 1 Chr.28.11-19.
- Cross Over application: We began the Great Adventure campaign in '01-'02. This was a call by God; the Cross Over campaign is both an initiative of one and the recognition that a job needs to be completed. Kris Calvert came on staff and openly stated that she had a strong drive to complete the second floor and pay off the debt. Others felt the same.

“to honor God”

- This defines the motive of the work.
- Why did David want to build the Temple? 1 Chron.28.2f. He wanted to build a permanent place where the Ark could rest.
 - Ps.132.1-5
- His motive was right.
- Motive illustration/story.
- Appl - Why do you want to do something significant for God? Is it to be noticed, recognized, lifted up, prove a point, or b/c you want his name lifted up.
 - Script - “God knows the proud from afar.
 - In all we do, We must honor God first.
- Tennessee Titans center Kevin Long, who played under Coach Bobby Bowden at Florida State University, said his college coach inspired the team with parables. Long recounted a favorite story:
 - [Bowden] was playing college baseball, and he had never hit a home run. Finally he hit one down the right-field line, into the corner. He rounds first and looks to the third base coach. He turned at second, was halfway to third and the coach was still waving him on. He got to home, he hit the plate. He had his first home run, he was so excited and everybody was slapping him five. Then the pitcher took the ball, threw to the first baseman, and the umpire called him out.
 - [Coach Bowden] said, "If you don't take care of first base, it doesn't matter what you do. If you don't honor the Lord first, it doesn't matter what else you do."
 - The Tennessean (9-29-00);
- Cross Over application: What is our desire? To reduce debt, complete a building? Build a name for ourselves?

- My vision of the campaign: **To advance together in faith and watch God do amazing things.** It's about congregational, personal and community transformation.

“by sacrificially building”

- This defines the means of the work. In other words, sacrificial building must take place for the real purpose to be accomplished.
- 1 Ch.29.6–9. The people gave willingly, bountifully and sacrificially. This is very similar to the giving of the construction of the Tabernacle in Ex.35 & 36. They gave above the regular offering.
- There was freedom in the amount. God didn't force the people. The leaders led by example.
- Appl – if you want to do something significant for God, he leaves it up to you to decide how much effort and sacrifice you will give. He will provide the call and then you decide at what level you are willing to sacrifice.

If you travel up I-395 through Washington, D.C., and cross over the Potomac, you will likely cross the Arland D. Williams, Jr., Memorial Bridge. Who was Arland D. Williams, Jr.?

On January 13, 1982, he gave hope to five individuals at the cost of his own life. On that cold January day, Air Florida Flight 90 crashed into the icy Potomac. Ice on the wings prevented the plane from a successful take-off. Almost all of the passengers perished.

Five different times, a helicopter dropped a rope to save Williams. Five times, Williams passed the rope to other passengers in worse shape than he was. When the rope was extended to Williams the sixth time, he could not take hold, and succumbed to the frigid waters.

His heroism was not rash. Aware that his own strength was fading, he deliberately handed hope to someone else over the space of several minutes.

No one would have thought anything if he had taken the rope, but he gave himself for others. He sacrificially gave himself and others were saved.

David A. Slagle, Lawrenceville, Georgia; source: "A Hero-Passenger Aids Others, Then Dies," Washington Post (1-14-82)

- Cross Over application – God is giving us an opportunity to sacrificially build. He won't force your hand, or make you give a certain amount. This is between you and God.

“a place to encounter Him”

- This defines the purpose of the work.
- This was the ultimate aim of David's initiative. 2 Chr.5.13b–6.2, 40 – 7.3.
- The history of 200 Willow Drive. Over 50 years ago, the church was started. People saved, healed, delivered, equipped, sent, and changed because they encountered him. BCS, Wee Place, Montesoir, and others have used these facilities and property for the advancement of the Kingdom and the teaching of truth. How has God used this place in your life?
- I believe there are sacred places that are like heavenly portals. They are gateways into the presence of the Lord. You can meet God anywhere, but I believe there are certain places where His Spirit is stronger. Christian camps and churches are that way. We know that's true with the demonic. There are places they inhabit, which are oppressed or fearful. Angels have been assigned here to establish and strengthen the work & will of God.
- The history of the location of the Temple – 2 Ch.3.1. This place had spiritual significance in the sight of God like Bethel.
- I've watched this over the years at Willow. People who during worship or communion or the message will receive a download from the Lord. Why? You're in an anointed environment. We are gathered together in Jesus' name and He is really with us.
- Cross Over application: We are providing an environment where people of all ages can encounter God and be changed. The history of the land is an indication of how God wants to use it in the future. God isn't limited to property and buildings, but He uses them for His purposes. This is a place where God encounters people!

“from one generation to the next.”

- This defines the impact, scope of the work.

- From 1000 bc to 586 bc, the Temple stood in Jerusalem. 10 – 20 generations worshipped the Lord.
- Appl – in doing something great for God, we typically think of the immediate impact of our sacrifice and don't think about the long term impact. What David's generation sacrificed in financial resources, blessed the generations that followed. One generation sacrificed and the next 10 – 20 generations enjoyed it.
- Illustration of someone's sacrifice
- Whenever people expend themselves, they want results. If they lay down life, they want someone's life raised up. If they empty themselves, they want someone to be filled. They want their sufferings to bear fruit.
- If this doesn't happen, they're tempted to give up. The refusal of the gift quickly becomes a reason not to offer it. Instead of leaning into resistance with love, they'll back off and say, "Well, we tried."
- However, the motive for offering love is not that it be successful. Christians want response, but they are not bound to it. They sacrifice for others because they are the recipients of sacrifice. They are the current generation of a long line of broken bodies and shed blood.
- This gift Christians have received, they freely give. They join the living history in enacting the dream of God, [which] is a people sustained and transformed by mutual sacrificial love.
 - Fr. John Shea in U.S. Catholic (March 1990).
- Cross Over appl – this economic season is tough, but what we do during this season will have a long term impact for the generations to come. Our sacrifice during this season will touch lives, who will touch lives, who will touch lives. Jesus promises, "Lk.18.29f."

Conclusion: Worship facilities are man's initiatives to honor God by building sacrificially places to encounter Him from one generation to the next.

2 Sam.7 – ² the king summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am living in a beautiful cedar palace,^[a] but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!”

1 Ki.8 – ¹⁷ Then Solomon said, “My father, David, wanted to build this Temple to honor the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ But the LORD told him, ‘You wanted to build the Temple to honor my name. Your intention is good, ¹⁹ but you are not the one to do it. One of your own sons will build the Temple to honor me.’

2 Sa. 7: ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? ⁶ I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. ⁷ Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel’s tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, “Why haven’t you built me a beautiful cedar house?””

2 Ch.28. ² David rose to his feet and said: “My brothers and my people! It was my desire to build a temple where the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant, God’s footstool, could rest permanently. I made the necessary preparations for building it, ³ but God said to me, ‘You must not build a temple to honor my name, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.’

Psa.132:

² He made a solemn promise to the LORD.

He vowed to the Mighty One of Israel,^[a]

³ “I will not go home;

I will not let myself rest.

⁴ I will not let my eyes sleep

nor close my eyelids in slumber

⁵ until I find a place to build a house for the LORD,

a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel.”

1 Chon.29.: ⁶ Then the family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the generals and captains of the army,^[a] and the king’s administrative officers all gave willingly. ⁷ For the construction of the Temple of God, they gave about 188 tons of gold,^[b] 10,000 gold coins,^[c] 375 tons of silver,^[d] 675 tons of bronze,^[e] and 3,750 tons of iron.^[f] ⁸ They also contributed numerous precious stones, which were deposited in the treasury of the house of the LORD under the care of Jehiel, a descendant of Gershon. ⁹ The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD, and King David was filled with joy.