



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Call to Build

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THEME GOFORTH

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The House of the Lord is a place where people come together to encounter and worship God. We need to keep building the House of the Lord, and this requires every child of God to bring a willing offering for the work which the Lord has commanded. There are seats to be filled, people yet to be reached, and neighbourhoods around us who have yet to hear or come to the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Through Exodus 35, DSP Edric Sng led the congregation to examine 3 things that we need to build the House of the Lord.

What does it take to build the House of the Lord

1) Our Obedience

Obedience starts with a willing heart (Exodus 35:5, 21-22, 26, 29) to obey God's command, and there are two ways we respond to His command: Unwillingly vs Willingly.

a) Unwilling to Obey

Sometimes we are unwilling to obey God because of personal agendas and preferences. For example, Achan hiding wartime plunder (Joshua 7), and Ananias and Sapphira hiding money (Acts 5:3) from God.

b) Unwilling to believe that God's Calling Us

Moses was unwilling to obey God's command for him to bring the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt and gave excuses that he was not good enough (Exodus 3:10, 4:1, 4:10). In response, God gave His power (Exodus 4:5) and His people (Exodus 4:14) to Moses to help him achieve his purpose. Despite all these, Moses did not want to obey (Exodus 4:13-14).

Even though God meets us time and again in our place of fear and anxiety, our actual concern was the state of our unwilling heart. Very often we let our past baggage, personality and preferences stop us from stepping up to the purposes and plans that God has for us.

c) Obey Unwillingly

Jonah unwillingly obeyed God to share His message of repentance to the Ninevites (Jonah 4:2), thinking that they are not worthy; Thomas unwillingly obeyed Jesus to go to Lazarus who had just died (John 11:16), believing that they will get caught by the authorities.

God delights more in our obedience and willing hearts towards His purposes than our sacrifices (1 Samuel 15:22). Jesus is the Head of the House and the Chief Cornerstone, and we must follow Him and build His House in His ways (Ephesians 2:19-21), not our ways.

2) Our Offering

We can bring our offerings to God in terms of our time, talents and treasure.

The most common excuse when it comes to serving the Lord is that it is not the right time. There is never a good time to serve as something else will always demand our attention. Busyness is the enemy's trap. We just have to decide to serve in obedience to the Lord, no matter what season we are in.

Much like the skilled craftsmen and women in Exodus 35 who contributed their skills towards building the House of the Lord, we can also give of our talents and giftings to the work of God.

Our God is a King of endless worth. What is of worth to God is our willingness to give up our treasure – something that is of worth to us, be it our time, talent or possessions. Our willingness is of much worth to God than gold or silver.

3) Ownership

We must own the need and the work to build the House of the Lord. Ownership is not leaving the work to someone else but taking it upon ourselves. The church is the Lord's (Psalm 127:1) and He gives us the privilege to labour in it. We serve, just as Jesus came to serve and save the lost (Mark 10:45).

CONCLUSION

We are called to serve and take ownership in building the House of the Lord. In God's economy, we gain immensely more than we give – the joy of serving the Lord, learning more about Him, seeing people coming to God and lives being transformed. It is more blessed to give than to receive (Proverbs 11:25), and he who waters will himself be watered (Acts 20:35).

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you personally benefitted from others who have served in church? How do you think the church will look like if majority chooses not to participate in serving?

2. Why do you think a willing heart to obey is important to God? How does Moses's reluctance to obey his calling reflect fears we still struggle with today?

3. What is the Time, Talent or Treasure you could offer up in your current life stage to serve the Lord and build His House? Where do you sense God inviting you to step up?

