

Unless the Lord Builds the House

Psalm 127

This sermon ends our series "Meet the Psalmists," as we get to know Solomon a little better through Psalm 127. Next week we begin a new series on Genesis 1-11, "God, Humanity, and Our Biggest Questions."

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1a)

1. "In vain" means wasted, pointless effort

- Could be due to failure (the house falls down), or more poignantly, due to success that proves to be empty
- We want to avoid this! How can we?

2. "Unless the Lord builds the house"

- Not: if the Lord *blesses* the house... after *you* build it.

Let's Meet the Psalmist, Solomon, who knows all about houses. What does "house" mean? In 2 Samuel 7, the Lord speaks to King David, Solomon's Dad:

- "Will you build me a house?" (house = temple)
- "I will make *you* a house." (house = dynasty, with the next king being Solomon)
- "He [your son] will make me a house." (house = temple)

Back to Psalm 127, which ends by celebrating children: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord." (127:3)

- The psalm ends with house = family

So, let's apply: "Unless the Lord builds the house..." Taking house = family, how might we apply this?

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Read Psalm 127. Think about it from Solomon's life and perspective. He built the house of the Lord, the temple. And he is the son of David, whose "house" (dynasty) was built by the Lord (2 Samuel 7). How does Solomon's life reflect the truth of verse 1?
2. Verse 1 is crucial, but it doesn't include a command for how to apply this. Suggest some applications for your "house."
3. Verse 3 celebrates children. Difficulties with raising children are well known, as well as various heartaches. But in this psalm children are described as a "reward" and a "heritage." How can we reflect this truth with gratitude in our lives?