

David's Tabernacle

Prayer

I was thinking about all the wonderful teaching lately on the feasts and all of the good things we have been discussing about God's kingdom... So I was praying to the Lord about what to bring to you this morning and he laid the Tabernacle of David on my heart.

Let's start with a little historical context. It was King David who brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem known also as the city of David. It was placed in a tabernacle. At that point the tabernacle was a tent structure.

Let's look at 2 Samuel 6:16-18

Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. So they brought the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.

I'd have to say David was excited in his worship as he was leaping and whirling wouldn't you? Remember the presence of God inhabited the Ark... Can you imagine how it felt to have the presence of God right there? I hope it's not too hard to imagine because his presence is in this place right now! We just need to respond and be sensitive to it...

Where was I? Oh yes,

David was excited and he wanted to build a permanent structure to place the Ark into. He revered God. Now since the time of Moses the Ark had been housed in a portable temple. It was as described as a tent like structure. To be totally honest the study of that temple is a whole sermon unto itself... So I won't delve into that here... What I want to focus on here is that a desire is planted in King David's heart.

Now turn with me to 2 Samuel 7:1-2

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

As we read on you will see that God answered David. He answered him with history and with a reminder that up until this point he never asked anyone to build a Temple only a tabernacle, which was a moveable tent.

2 Samuel 7:3-7

Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you. "But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, "Thus says the Lord:" Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar? "'

What we hear God instructing the prophet Nathan to say to David is how the Lord never asked any man to build a temple, only a tent or tabernacle.

Now God did honor David's heart and allowed him to build a temple of stone and cedar, but God was teaching a lesson here. A lesson we all need to understand.

This part is critical so really listen carefully here...

The Lord God designed the Ark of the Covenant, inside of which resided the tablets containing the Law of God to be a TEMPORARY thing. He wanted his tabernacle to be moveable. We don't worship the place but the one who inhabits it!

Romans 2:14-16

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

The tabernacle represents us as humans with the Law of God in our hearts. The permanence comes from righteousness and presence of God.

See what King David says in Psalms 15:1-5

*Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
He who walks uprightly,
And works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;*

*He who does not backbite with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbor,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he honors those who fear the Lord;
He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
He who does not put out his money at usury,
Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.*

So we are also considered tabernacles... Hmm, stay with me here.

Now consider with me Acts 15:16,17

*'After this I will return
And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down;
I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;
So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,
Says the Lord who does all these things.'*

No consider with me that Jesus was of the line of David and I would go so far as to say that David was a foreshadowing of the coming messiah. You see the tabernacle of David is ultimately inherited by the one for whom it was created. Jesus Christ!

Remember what the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 16:5 regarding Christ?

In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.

One final point before I go on to the significance of the Tabernacle of David...

The tabernacle of David fell simply because David's descendants were not faithful, nor righteous. But the seed of David in Jesus who is righteous will reestablish the tabernacle.

Turn with me to Amos 9:11 to see what the prophet has to say about this...

*"On that day I will raise up
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,
And repair its damages;
I will raise up its ruins,
And rebuild it as in the days of old;*

You see simply put the tabernacle of David is a foreshadowing of Christ and his church

Remember David leaping and whirling in joy? While he was doing this Michal, David's wife scorned him. Isn't this just like what we are experiencing in the church today. Jesus leading his church to eternal joy in Zion and the church facing all the scorn of the world. Jesus has a place for us.

Isaiah 35:10 Is one of my favorite scriptures. It says:

*And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
And come to Zion with singing,
With everlasting joy on their heads.
They shall obtain joy and gladness,
And sorrow and sighing shall flee away!*

Do you begin to see the model of the Tabernacle of David?

So do we want this? ABSOLUTELY!!!

Friends, the Tabernacle of David is for Today!!!

NOW... let's examine the church shall we...

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation, which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

Jesus is our tabernacle! We run into him! He is our strong shelter. He is the assurance of our resurrection!!!

Look at this though... 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

We are in Christ Jesus and his tabernacle is in us

1 Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people

Friends the tabernacle in you is supposed to be a house of joy and praise!

Here now the Word of the Lord...

1) Lift up your hands

Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice

Note: When Solomon built God's temple the morning and evening sacrifice of animals was changed to the Levites praying and worshipping God.

Psalms 134:1,2

Behold, bless the Lord, All you servants of the Lord, Who by night stand in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, And bless the Lord

2) Clap your hands / Shout unto the lord with the voice of Triumph!

Psalms 47:1

*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*

Zechariah 9:9a

*" Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you*

Psalms 132:9

*Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,
And let Your saints shout for joy*

Psalms 5:11-12

*But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;
Let those also who love Your name*

*Be joyful in You.
For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous;
With favor You will surround him as with a shield.*

3) Dancing and praise with instruments

2 Samuel 14,15

Then David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

Psalms 150:4-6

*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
Praise Him with loud cymbals;
Praise Him with clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!
God loves drummers!*

Psalms 149:3-6

*Let them praise His name with the dance;
Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify the humble with salvation.
Let the saints be joyful in glory;
Let them sing aloud on their beds.
Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,
And a two-edged sword in their hand*

Psalms 30:11-12

*You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever.*

Conclusion:

The Tabernacle was established by God to be us. He has written his laws upon the tablets of our hearts. He wants to inhabit us! We as his children have seen that Jesus, the lineage of David is the head of the tabernacle. He desires to tabernacle in our hearts. We are his church! He is in us as we are in him!

Are you HIS Tabernacle?

Are you his to do with as he pleases?

Are we offering up a sincere sacrifice of unreserved praise and worship as we see in the example of the Tabernacle of David?

Friends, it is not popular to say, but being a tabernacle of the Lord Jesus Christ is not about us. It's not about what we can or should do... It's really about what HE does and what he wants.

Are we willing to show up and be in his presence?

Do we want him to reveal himself to us or are we so conformed to man made religion and tradition that we forget to consult his living (rhema) Word?

We are His Tabernacle. He paid for us with his blood. It is His space to do what He wants, when He wants, how He wants.

Sorry, but it is really not about our wants. It's not about what we can do or should do. It is about what HE wants and what he is doing.

Our job is to praise and worship him - for he has done, is doing and will do great things!

What would happen right here at Crossroads, if we would simply show up and be present before God, letting Him lavishly pour out us His affection on us? What if even going a step further, we letting Him reveal our own hearts to us, and bringing about change in us?

What an amazing thing it will be when we fully accept him and finally learn to become familiar with His presence continuously!

Friends, my greatest desire is to connect you with Jesus! My job is to point the way to Christ! This morning let us open our hearts and be vessels for his presence.

First, the tabernacle housed the presence of the Lord, Then Jesus came incarnate as the tabernacle and now the Spirit of Christ inhabits each of us as temples of the most high.

I close with one final thought from Psalms 100:1-5

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, His truth endures to all generations.

Prayer