When Your Home Becomes a Castle July 4, 2021

*1 Kings 7:1-12 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead. – William Law

Intro: How will your priorities be memorialized?

1. Your home becomes a castle, when you prioritize time for yourself over time for God
2. Solomon spent twice as long on his own house as God’s house

v. 1 *Solomon was building his own house thirteen years*

1 Kings 6:38 *He was seven years in building [the house of the LORD].*

2 Samuel 7:2 *[David] the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”*

Exodus 20:17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house …*

1. Our love for God is expressed in how we spend our time

Deuteronomy 6:5 *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Psalm 90:12 *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Psalm 37:4 *Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

* What would it tell you about a person to see them buried in a Harley-Davidson sidecar?
* What are some ways that you express your love to God with your use of time? When do you find that difficult?
* How does “numbering our days” help us use our time wisely?

1. Your home becomes a castle, when you prioritize money for yourself over money for God
2. Solomon’s house was all about extravagance

v. 2 *Its length was a hundred cubits and its breadth fifty cubits and its height thirty cubits …*

v. 7 *It was finished with cedar from floor to rafters.*

v. 9 *these were made of costly stones, … from the foundation to the coping, and from the outside to the great court*

v. 10 *The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits.*

1. Solomon spent extra money masking his compromise

v. 8 *Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter whom he had taken in marriage.*

2 Chronicles 8:11 *Solomon brought Pharaoh’s daughter up from the city of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said, “My wife shall not live in the house of David king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy.”*

1. Our priorities are expressed in how we manage our money

Luke 12:15 *And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

Matthew 6:24 *No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

* When did Solomon’s palace-building become sinful? How can we discern when we’ve crossed that line?
* What does it mean for money to become our “master”?
* How can we honour God in how we manage our money?

1. Your home becomes a castle, when you’re more urgent about your kingdom than God’s kingdom
2. Solomon delayed completion of God’s house to finish his own

v. 1 *and he finished his entire house*

1 Kings 7:51 *Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the LORD was finished.*

Psalm 132:3-5 *[David said] “I will not enter my house or get into my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”*

1. We’re often tempted to put ourselves before God

Haggai 1:2 *These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.*

Haggai 1:4 *Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?*

1. Jesus promises satisfaction to those who put Him first

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Luke 18:29–30 *Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.*

* Why do you think Solomon delayed the completion of the temple to build his own palace?
* What are some priorities that compete with God today?
* What are some examples of urgency for God’s priorities that you’ve seen in the lives of other Christians?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study John 21:15-22

Notes