

Let's Build

The Hoover Dam

- Built during the Great Depression 1931-1936
- Built without computers and modern day technology
- While built to last for centuries
- Engineers believe it will last more than 10,000 years
- And it is going strong today!!
- Controlling flood waters, providing irrigation, and electricity
- This structure was built to stand the test of time!!
- But it all started with a plan...
- There had to be a Blueprint...

Now, the last two weeks we've talked about being a "Community of Believers"

- An "Unstoppable" empowered Church
- The Church that Jesus designed...

We talked about "Embracing the New Man"

- How Jesus calls what appears to be unlikely people
- Looking for the life changing intervention in broken and lost people
- Looking beyond their past...
- Accepting them into our church, our community

If we can do these things, I believe we are off to a great start!!!

Now,

- Let's Build!!!

I'm not talking about a new building...

- Let's build upon the foundation that Jesus laid for His church...
- Let's build something that will stand the test of time!!
- Let's build something that will make a difference in the world!!

In Acts 2, right after the outpouring of The Holy Spirit, and Peter's sermon to the crowd, we see the birth of The New Testament Church

Acts 2: 40-47

A Vital Church Grows

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and **many wonders and signs were done through the apostles**. 44 Now all **who believed were together**, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So **continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily** those who were being saved.

And here we see the “**Blueprint**” for Jesus church...

Look at the simplicity of His plan for the church:

- Following Sound Doctrine (solid Whole Bible) (steadfastly)
- Fellowship
- Prayer
- Demonstrating the power of God through believers (signs and wonders)
- Tending to each-others needs
- Corporate gatherings (church service, preaching teaching, worship)
- Fellowship outside the church
- Living a lifestyle of praise

Remember, Jesus said:

- “Upon this Rock I will build My Church”
- **This is that foundation...**
- Blueprint...
- When we get back to this plan...He will add to the church daily!!

I want you to look at it like this:

The Church is:

- A perfect God
- Using imperfect people
- To build a progressive and unstoppable church!!

In building The Hoover Dam

- Thousands of people working together
- All types of skill sets
- It took planning
- Organizing
- Lots of hard work

The church is no different...

- We need all of that too!!

Remember last week I told you:

- **"You are a chosen generation..."?**

Go back in Exodus and read about how God gave Moses the vision for The Tabernacle in the wilderness...

- It was a very meticulously laid out plan
- A lot of work needed by a lot of talented people

How do you think this was all going to happen?

Where was all this manpower and materials supposed to come from?

- A trip to Lowe's and an ad on Craigslist?

No...

God told Moses...

- You have everything you need right here...

Exodus 35:10-19

10 **'All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded:** 11 the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets; 12 the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering; 13 the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread; 14 also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light; 15 the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle; 16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base; 17 the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court; 18 the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords; 19 the garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place—the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests.'"

30 And Moses said to the children of Israel, **"See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel** the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and **He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,** 32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

34 "And **He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab** the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35 **He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work** of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue,

purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

This list goes on and on in the next several chapters...

When God decides to build something, He will supply everything needed to build it!

(I'm not even using their example of giving at this time... that will come later...)

Today's church is no different...

It needs:

- **Carpenters**
- **Electricians**
- **Teachers**
- **Musicians**
- **Accountants**
- **Organizers**
- **Grass mowers**
- **Decorators**

And where are we supposed to find these people?

- **If all parts of the body are present...**
- **They should be right here!!**
- **You are the chosen generation**
- **God has given each unique gifts and talents to be used for His glory**

And earlier I mentioned the church being “progressive”...

- **Things have changed a lot since that day of Pentecost**
- **We can't sit still**
- **We must press forward!!**

Just like The Hoover Dam over the course of years

- **Maintenance**
- **Repairs**
- **Staffing needs have changed**
- **There are many structures built since the Hoover Dam that are no longer working, or have been torn down...**
- **Modernization (Remember, there were no computers when it was built)**

The church must continue to progress and grow...

- **Younger people who are up to date on technology**
- **People willing to take the vision and run with it**
- **Everyone working in their skillset and abilities**
- **Spreading The Word of God**
- **All for the Glory of God and the building of The Kingdom!!**

Do you want to build something?

Something that will stand the test of time?

- **We have the Blueprint... (hold up The Bible)**
- **This is The Church Jesus designed**
- **An active and empowered Body working together to expand The Kingdom of God**
- **Not negating the experience to an hour and a half spectator event on Sunday mornings....**

Let's Build!!

Altar time