Unless the Lord Builds the House

Brent Moody · Psalm 127:1–5 · Series: **Seek First: The Ordered Life**

INTRODUCTION

- This morning we are in Psalm 127, which is in the middle of the Songs of Ascent. **(Psalm 127)**
- "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." **(Psalm 127:1)**

1. Their Life Was Dependent Upon Yahweh

Scripture: **Psalm 124; Psalm 122; Psalm 121**

- Psalm 120 through 134 is this group of psalms … part of their pilgrimage. They sang it on the way.
- They remembered that without him, they would have nothing.
- "If it had not been for the Lord who was on our side, when people rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us up alive." **(Psalm 124:1–3)**
- "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" **(Psalm 122:1)**
- "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?" It was a recognition that their life was dependent upon Yahweh. **(Psalm 121:1)**

2. Learning to Trust God With a Life We Can't Control

- The journey itself to Jerusalem became a living illustration of the struggle that Psalm 127 addressed: learning to trust God with a life that we can't completely control. **(Psalm 127)**
- Realizing true blessing is found in a life given over to God.
- So much depends on the God who blesses us, and there is so little that we actually control.
- We work to build and to secure and to protect our lives, but we can't control everything. But what we can control is the foundation upon which we have built our life.
- It calls us to be faithful in our responsibilities without seeking self-sufficiency.
- We should work hard and we should build and we should plan and we should protect the things that we have, but realize that those things only truly matter if God is actually at the foundation of our life.

3. Seeking First the Kingdom of God

- It would be a mistake if we concluded the series by thinking that seeking first the kingdom of God means that we secure for ourselves a smooth and comfortable and good life.
- Following Jesus is not some kind of means by which we secure earthly comfort or joys.
- It does give us purpose. It does give meaning to what would otherwise be an unbearable and pointless existence.

- What life is really about is surrendering ourselves to the ways of God, giving ourselves over to him. **(Matthew 5)**
- It is giving myself to the Lord no matter what comes.
- Not to save this life, not to have their best life now, but because of the eternal life and the hope that God offered them through Jesus Christ.

4. The Idea of Our Foundation

Scripture: **Psalm 127; Psalm 128**

- We are surrendering who we are to someone who is so much better, who knows so much better.
- What is it that we're building upon or we're building with?
- It keeps talking about peace being upon Zion and Jerusalem, about the city walls and about God's people, and it's about his house and his temple.

5. All of Our Effort Is Completely Vain

- It's about the house of the Lord, that things are being built upon God himself, whether it's what's actually happening within the walls of our home, or in a place like this, or in society in general.
- Are we building on the things of the Lord?
- If we're not building with God, and we're building apart from him, all of our effort is completely vain. **(Psalm 127:1)**
- Human effort is insufficient in and of itself to accomplish anything that brings meaning or satisfaction or fulfillment or joy.

MY NOTES