

Building

God's Redemptive Story thru David--part 4

January 31, 2016

DAY 1: "Building"--an overview

1. "Building" is the long haul of living. None of the truly important things are accomplished overnight. Our Christian growth toward Christlikeness is a **life-long** pursuit. A growing marriage takes years to build. Growing a business, your career, your way "up the ladder" is a long process. Building a ministry to people takes time.

2. That just makes it sound like it takes a long time. But it also takes a lot of **perseverance**. Much of building a marriage, your character, a family, a career, etc. is a lot like trying to build a house during a tornado.

3. Trying to do what is right when it seems that all hell is breaking against you can be quite confusing, disillusioning, and disheartening.

4. It is when the tornado is swirling all around you that the life of faith must take over.

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials,

³*for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

⁴*And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

⁵*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.*

5. James has some astounding advice for us when trials come our way. What is it? (v. 2).

6. Why should we rejoice when trials come our way? (v. 3)

7. "Steadfastness" (perseverance) is not built any other way, except through trials.

8. What is steadfastness important? (v. 4)

9. In the midst of trials, when life gets confusing, what does James suggest we do? (v. 5)

DAY 2: Building, as part of God's redemptive story

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

1. When the trials of life hit, Christians hold on with "hope," but it is not the "hope" of the world, as in, "I hope things turn out well," meaning they may or they may not. The "hope" the bible talks about is hope rooted in God's character and His redemptive story.

2. That hope has the potential to give us two important effects. What are they?

3. God's redemptive story can be summed up in the next three verses:

Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹ *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren.*

³⁰ *And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

4. One of the most astounding verses in all the bible is Romans 8:28.

a. What can we expect God to do regard *all* the events of our lives? (v. 28)

b. Does that necessarily mean that the good He will do is what *we* want? (v. 28)

c. The purpose of God's redemptive story is told in the first part of v. 29. What is God working at to do in us? (v. 29a)

d. The main stages of God's redemptive story are outlined in v. 30.

(1) God calls us. We were all wandering away from God. God got our attention!

(2) God justifies us. God makes us right with Him through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

(3) God will glorify us, meaning, that at our entrance into heaven, the job of making us like Christ will finally be completed!

5. It is God's redemptive story which gives the Christian a sure hope, even in the midst of trials!

DAY 3: Example #1 of building: David, and the loss of the baby born to Bathsheba

1. After Nathan confronted David with his adultery, conspiracy to murder and a year long cover-up, David finally repents and confesses his sin. David's life was mercifully spared, but the consequences of his sin would ensue.

2. In the passage below, underline everything David did that was right in his handling of this crisis. Include not only his actions but his perspectives!

2 Samuel 12:15 After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground.

¹⁷ The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

¹⁹ David noticed that his servants were whispering among themselves and he realized the child was dead. "Is the child dead?" he asked. "Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.

²¹ His servants asked him, "Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!"

²² He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.'

²³ But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;

²⁵ and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah. ("Jedidiah" is Hebrew for "Loved of the Lord").

3. What of David's actions struck you the most? Why?

4. David's perspective at the end of this episode is one of the highpoints of Christian understanding of God's redemptive story. The story does not end at the grave. The story continues right into eternity! What strikes you about David's understanding?

5. How would his perspective in this crisis, help you with your trials?

DAY 4: Example #2 of building: David dealing with a man embittered toward David

1. When David, his family, and king's entourage were fleeing Jerusalem, a scoundrel named Shimei showed up to "rub salt in David's wounds."

2 Samuel 16:5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out.

⁶ He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left.

⁷ As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel!"

⁸ The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!" ⁹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

2. How do you think you would have responded if you were King David?

3. Let's see how David responded. He speaks, not to Shimei, but to his friend, Abishai.

¹⁰ But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

¹¹ David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to.

¹² It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today."

4. David "sees" how God may be at work in this situation from entirely two different angles. What's David's perspective about God in:

a. verse 10--

b. verse 11--

c. verse 12--

¹³ So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt.

¹⁴ The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

5. David is facing the reality he created--chaos, in the person of Shimei. What strikes you from David's perspective about what God may be up to?

DAY 5: Example #2: David forgiving the embittered man, Shimei

1. Sometimes, "building" your character, a marriage, a ministry, a business, a family, etc., involves forgiving people who have hurt you.
2. It's very easy to give "lip service" to forgiveness, but then let old wounds fester to the point of resentment, then a grudge, and then hatred or worse.
3. After Absalom is killed, David returns to Jerusalem to re-take the throne. Suddenly Shimei finds himself on "the wrong side of history."

2 Sam. 19:16 Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷ With him were a thousand Benjamites, along with Ziba, the steward of Saul's household, and his fifteen sons and twenty servants. They rushed to the Jordan, where the king was.

¹⁸ They crossed at the ford to take the king's household over and to do whatever he wished. When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell prostrate before the king

¹⁹ and said to him, "May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind.

²⁰ For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first of the whole house of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king."

4. How would you have responded to Shimei?

²¹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the LORD's anointed."

²² David replied, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? This day you have become my adversaries! Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"

²³ So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath.

5. How does David respond to Shimei's request for forgiveness and pardon?

6. What strikes you about David's response?

7. Why was David able to forgive Shimei, a rotten scoundrel?

8. As we finish up "building," there are two important perspectives to keep in mind:

- a. An eternal perspective. God's redemptive story is more than just these seventy years. He is using these very brief years in such a way to fill us with the most elaborate joy in the next life.

- b. A daily perspective. "Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:34) Each day we're to be a builder, serving God and building the important things and relationships of life.