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THE MASTER BUILDER

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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THE MASTER BUILDER

I. Unless The Lord Builds The House

A. **Psalm 127:1** – Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.

1. They may build it, but with much frustration and labor that is in vain.
2. Vain equals useless.
3. If we manage to build a thing and it still bears no fruit or brings a harvest, then the entire thing was in vain.

B. **I Corinthians 3:6-7** – Only God can bring increase (harvest fruit).

1. We may make it work, but only God can make it work right.
2. If it is working right, it produces peace and joy.
3. If it produces frustration, weariness, strife, discouragement, etc. – these are signs that “flesh” is involved.

C. **I Corinthians 3:9-11** – The master builder always lays a solid foundation first.

1. Man is impatient and wants to build something quickly that everyone can see and admire – he is not interested in foundations! Basements don't interest him!
2. He does not build a quality building. He is satisfied with anything that looks good on the surface.

D. After our building project had been underway for almost three years, we were just getting ready to start the actual building.

1. When people drove by they could not even see anything yet. All the work done thus far had been underground, ground preparation, or flat on the ground (parking lots, etc.).
2. Dave told me several times, “Joyce, if we rush this, we will make mistakes that will cost us a lot of money later.” It is best to take the proper time now and not be sorry later.

E. **Hebrews 3:4** – The Builder and Furnisher of all things is God.

1. God lays the foundation, builds the house, and furnishes it with all the equipment that will be needed.
2. Our ministry – God had to first build me; then He had to build the ministry – furnish us with people to help us, furnish us with money, and furnish us with strength, wisdom, creativity, boldness, faith, etc.
3. God has to start it, He has to maintain it, and He has to finish it.

II What Shall We Let Him Build?

A. **US** – We must let Him build us as individuals.

1. **Galatians 3:3**
2. **I Peter 5:5b-10** – After we wait on Him and remain faithful, He will complete us and make us what we ought to be.
3. **Hebrews 13:20-21** – God will complete you and make you what you ought to be. He will equip you so that you may carry out His will.
4. **I Thessalonians 5:22-24** – God is faithful, and He will do it – fulfill His call on your life.
5. **Philippians 1:6** – He has begun a good work, and He will finish it.

- a. **Philippians 1:3-6** – This promise of God finishing what He began is fulfilled as the believer is obedient in other areas.
- b. When things take much longer than they should, it is because we are taking much longer than we should to do what God tells us to do.
- c. **We are often so busy doing things He has NOT told us to do that we don't ever get around to doing what He has told us to do.**

B. **OUR MINISTRY** – God gives the gifts, and He opens the doors. He gives us favor, and true promotion only comes from Him.

- 1. **John 3:27** – All gifts come from God.

John was not worried about his ministry – his concern was staying in the will of God.

- 2. **Revelation 3:7-8** – A door which no man can shut
- 3. **II Corinthians 2:12** – A door of opportunity was opened for Paul.

Notice that a door was opened for him; he did not open the door.

- 4. **I Corinthians 16:9** – A great and effectual door was opened and with it many adversaries.
 - a. Often, our doors don't open because we are not ready for the adversaries that will come with the open door.
 - b. If we are not handling our adversaries very well on one level, it won't do any good for God to open a greater door.
 - c. New level – new devil!

5. **Luke 2:52** – We grow in wisdom and favor with God and man.

Favor is a free gift from God; it is released in varying degrees in our life as we display wisdom.

6. **Psalm 75:6-7** – *For not from the east nor from the west nor from the south come promotion and lifting up. But God is the Judge! He puts down one and lifts up another.*
 - a. **Isaiah 14:13-15** – Satan lifted himself up, and God brought him down.
 - b. If we wait for God to lift us up, nobody nor anything can bring us down.

C. **OUR REPUTATION**

1. **Philippians 2:7** – Jesus made Himself of no reputation and took upon Himself the guise of a servant.
2. **Reputation** (defined/Webster's 1828) – A good name; the credit, honor, or character which is derived from a favorable public opinion or esteem. With the loss of reputation, a man and especially a woman lose most of the enjoyments of life.

Reputation is simply what people think of us or say about us.

3. Paul was not concerned about his reputation, and it made him free to follow God.
 - a. **Galatians 1:10**
 - b. **I Corinthians 4:1-5**
 - c. **Galatians 6:17**
4. **John 12:42-43** – Many believed in Him; but for fear of the Pharisees, they would not confess it. **They loved their reputation more than they loved God.**

- a. Many people love their reputation more than they love God.
- b. Love of reputation causes disobedience. We become men-pleasers instead of God-pleasers.

D. **OUR SOCIAL LIFE**

1. Don't strive to get into a certain social group or to be in favor with a certain person. Let God give you favor with whoever He knows is right for you.
2. **John 8:15-16** – Man judges according to the flesh.
3. **I Samuel 16:7** – Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

E. **OUR CAREERS**

1. We often find ourselves in a place we would not have chosen, but it leads us into God's perfect will for us.
2. Esther would never have chosen the king's harem, but it was the position that enabled her to bring deliverance to her people.
3. Daniel would not have chosen captivity and the lion's den, but it led him to key leadership positions all through his life.
4. Joseph would not have chosen Egypt, slavery, and prison; but it led him to a position of honor and leadership second only to Pharaoh. It put him in a position to take care of his family during famine.
5. **Don't be so anxious to get away from every uncomfortable place. It may not be the place you will end up, but it could be the connecting link to your future.**

It could also be the refiner's fire that will purify the dross out of you.

F. OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

1. Only God can change people. People cannot effectively change people.
2. Sometimes we can force people to change on the outside, but only God can change their hearts.
3. **Matthew 11:28-30** - Don't be harsh and pressing.

We can spend a lifetime trying to press people into our molds.

4. **Romans 12:2** – Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the entire renewal of your mind.
 - a. Pray for God to transform people who need change – don't try to get them to conform to your idea of how they should be.
 - b. Even if you are right, each person has a God-given right to make his or her own choices. You may be right in theory, **BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUSH YOUR OPINIONS INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.**
 - c. **PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY**, and after that pray some more. **TRUST, TRUST, TRUST**, and after that trust some more. **WAIT, WAIT, WAIT**, and after that wait some more. **BE THANKFUL, BE THANKFUL, BE THANKFUL**; and after you have been thankful for everything you can think of, **find something else to be thankful for.**
 - d. **John 16:8** – The Holy Spirit is “the Convicter” and “the Convincer.”

III Laboring In Vain

- A. **Isaiah 49:4** – . . . *I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing . . .*

1. Jacob was a man who sensed a call on his life and took matters into his own hands. He used wrong means to get what he wanted, and it brought fear and grief to his life.
 2. He stole what he wanted from his brother and tricked his father out of a blessing. He reaped what he sowed when he worked seven years for Rachel and got Leah.
- B. **Haggai 1:2-11** – People who were trying to build their houses (in vain), and nothing was working for them
1. If they had been busy building God’s house, He would have gladly built theirs.
- C. **Jeremiah 2:13** – My people have committed two evils.
1. They have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters.
 2. They have dug for themselves wells that have no water in them.

