

# **Breaking Ground**

## **Matthew 7:24-27**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

### **Series-1**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> of this year, folks from St Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN, Jeda Homes, and other organizations, met to break ground in Cimarron Cove subdivision in Paducah, KY. They have been building a home to benefit St Jude's Children's Hospital. The home they are building this year will be 2800 square foot and will include a sunroom. Last year, \$681,000 was raised for St Jude's because of the dream home that was built there. Out of every dollar that is given to St Jude's, 81 % goes to research and treatment of catastrophic children's diseases. An interesting thing about that home is that in 2010 and 2011, families from Calvert City and Benton, KY actually purchased the tickets that were drawn. While that home is primarily being built for the benefit of St Jude's, it also benefitted two families in Marshall County. They call that house the 'Dream Home.'

### **Desiring a Dream Home**

But the desire of our heart should not just be for a family to win a home by purchasing a ticket because the home is going for a good cause. But think about the possibility of every family in Marshall, Calloway, Graves, and surrounding counties having a dream home; that is our desire. I'm not talking about a physical home, but a spiritual, dream home life. We are going to begin this series by breaking ground on a dream home. Or, we are going to begin to remodel the home we thought was our dream home but it has been hit by a flood or tornado. We have some maintenance that needs to be done so that we can get it back into the shape it needs to be in so that we can truly call it our dream home. We will dedicate the next 13

lessons to the building, or the remodeling, or the enjoyment of our dream home. I hope and pray that you understand by the end of this series that we are building or remodeling our home for God's glory and the good of each of our family members. Our purpose in building is not to raise funds for a good cause; the ultimate purpose of our dream home is to bring honor and glory to God.

The benefit of that kind of home is that it is good for every member of your family, as well as this church. When it benefits the church, it benefits the community. When it benefits the community, it benefits the state. When it benefits the state, it benefits the nation, and ultimately it benefits the world. So what you are doing has huge implications.

We know that new houses and pursuing the American dream is the driving force of our economy. That is why every month our government publishes a report that tells us how many new houses were built or are being built. It will compare that to how many there were last month, and then to last year. They report how many new mortgages were taken out, and how many applied for mortgages on a new house. It is that important to the economy. I read a survey from our government that said the American dream is still to own their own house. They give statistic after statistic of sacrifices that people make to own their own home. I think we know and understand that the cost of the great recession that started in 2008 was started because of a housing bubble that burst. Wow, when that bubble burst, there was a great consequence to many people living in this country. Ultimately, what caused the bubble to burst were people who built houses and then got in situations and couldn't make their payment.

A sociologist from Harvard University back in 1965 warned us that we had better take notice because the traditional American family was eroding. He prophesied that if something wasn't done in the next few decades, it would have a tremendous influence on our country. We are now living in those times.

When you begin to build a house, there are some questions you normally ask yourself before you begin:

1. Where will I build?
2. What style will I build?
3. Who will build it?
4. When will I start?
5. Can I afford to build?

It is amazing that normally it is not we who decide whether we can afford it; it is normally the banker who decides. We sit down in front of a banker that we barely know, and they look over our dream home, built to our own specification, and we have to let them tell us whether or not we can afford to build the home of our dreams.

## **Building our Dream Home**

Let's begin to lay out some principles to build, remodel, and enjoy your dream home. I personally think it would be foolish if we did not answer some questions about building the home of our dreams before we start. I'm going to give you those same questions that you need to answer:

### **1. Why do we want to build the home of our dreams?**

I think it is the most important question. Or, why do I need to remodel the home I live in? Why am I getting to enjoy my life as it is right now?

### **2. Where are we going to build?**

I personally believe you cannot answer this question, spiritually, until you have answered the first question. Why do you want to build; what is your motivation in building a home?

### **3. What style of home do we want to build?**

We will discover there are many different styles of homes that you can actually choose to build. If you do not have a blueprint that you follow as you start to build, I am afraid some of us will end up with a home that is not what we wanted.

#### **4. Who is going to build this home?**

We are living in a society where we are taught to do it yourself. We are going to ask and answer the question of whether it's a good idea for us to build it all ourselves. Is it possible that we might need some help? Wouldn't it be good to have someone help us build parts of the home that we aren't skilled in as a husband or a wife? We will answer the question of who will come alongside us and help us build this home.

#### **5. When will we start?**

At what age do I need to start thinking about laying down my toys, turning off the TV, change my desire to break a video game record, and truly man-up, or woman-up? When do I take my toy box and put it in the attic and truly reach for the tools and begin to acquire a toolbox so that I am ready to start building the home of my dreams?

Now, there is a big question that I must ask. It is not can I afford this, it is:

#### **6. Can I afford not to build?**

After we finish this series, I do not want anyone to ask if they can afford this. I want you to ask if you can afford not to do this. What are the serious ramifications if you choose not to build the home of your dreams?

- **Mobile or Modular**

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980, Celisa and I started our life together as husband and wife. Before we got married, we asked that question that everyone asks (concerning our physical home). Can we afford what we really want? The answer was no. So as young people, we made a decision to purchase a mobile home. We had friends who didn't start out in a mobile home; they

started out in a modular home. If you are from the 'other' side of the tracks, you might not understand the difference between the two. A modular home was a ready-made home that was brought to you and set up on blocks. It was hooked to the ground and you knew you would be there a while. If you couldn't afford that, you started out in a mobile home. It had wheels on it. Now we didn't start out like a lot of folks started; in a 12x60 mobile home. We started out in a 14x70 mobile home. We were the envy of many people when they would come to our home on wheels (you couldn't see the wheels because we had underpinning). It was a three bedroom! They weren't very big; when you walked in them, you had to back out because there wasn't enough room to turn around. We had a bath and a half! The reason we bought a mobile home to start out was because we knew that we wouldn't always want to live where we were living. We bought a home on wheels so that we could move it. We did once, from Hwy 94 to Hwy 1346. We moved it with a 1086 International tractor!

As I recalled this, I thought that this is one problem we have with our culture. We Christians do not seem to be satisfied in living in a modular home; we want to live in a mobile home. These days, most of us use the word motor home for this kind of home. Now, motor homes make great recreational vehicles, but they make lousy homes. I have been impressed this week with a thought that for many of us, church is more social than it is spiritual. That is why many of us bring our families to church on the first day of the week and listen to a message from God, but then on Monday through Saturday, we do what we want to do. That is why some of our homes need to be remodeled. You have lived that life long enough, and it is just not working. Suddenly you realize that you don't have a home that is really bringing honor and glory to God. You don't really have a home that is benefiting you or the members of your family. I think many of us try to have our family in one place on Sunday and another place the rest of the week. That will not work. You cannot continue to send the message to

your children that you do it this way on Sunday, but you can do it that way on Monday through Saturday.

- **How to Build or Remodel**

We are going to talk about how to build, from the ground up, the home of our dreams. But for those of us who haven't done it exactly right, we will talk about how to remodel. We've had the tornado or flood come through. Our husband died, or he left for another woman, and now we are doing it by ourselves with three small children. How do you remodel? We will try to both build and remodel at the same time. The purpose of this series is in no way designed to bring condemnation, but I hope it brings conviction. But for those who need to remodel, I pray that you repent and confess. For those who haven't started yet, or are getting ready to, I hope you will listen to some folks who have been building for a long time. They have made some mistakes, but have also done a few things right. You can get expert, spiritual advice on how to build the home of your dreams.

- **For His Glory or Yours?**

Usually, we want to rush out and decide where to build. But I want you to ask yourself why you want to build or remodel your home. Basically, I believe that question can be answered with one of the two following reasons:

1. You are building or remodeling for His glory.
2. You are building or remodeling for your glory.

I honestly believe the answer to the question 'why' will determine what kind of home you will have. I cannot tell you how many men who know that when they started to build their home; in other words, when they started to date or court; did not do it for His honor and glory. We did it for us. Life, at that time, was not all about Him; it was mostly about me, and I made decisions about me. Ladies, you married him knowing that he was making decisions about himself and now you do not have the home of your dreams. And it is because you do not have a home that is about Him. You

have a home that is about your husband. It is reversed as well. Ladies, you know in your heart if your marriage was about the Lord, or if it was about you. It affects everything we do.

It affects why we date, how we date, and who we date. We will talk about dating again in this series. I pray that someone will take the lead in realizing that what may have worked 100 years ago in America is not working today. It is time we slaughter that sacred cow called dating, and truly see that there is a right way for young couples to start their life that will ultimately bring them to a place where they honor and glorify God.

I see so many times in a wedding ceremony, a couple want to begin their marriage in church before God. They want a message from God from the pastor, but everything leading up to that message has been about the world. We want a message from God, but music from Garth! I don't understand that. I don't understand why we would let a country music or pop culture artist tell us what love is about instead of God. You would fire me next week if we worshipped with what is played in most weddings, and yet you get mad at me because we don't want them in a wedding!

The job you have might be completely different if the desire of your heart was to glorify Him instead of getting as much as you can get because your home is about you. It is not too late to remodel. And it is definitely not too late to teach a younger generation how to learn from us and God's Word and truly build a home they can begin with that isn't mobile. It will be modular. It will be on the right foundation and one that will bring honor and glory to God. Will that home keep the floods and the tornadoes away? Absolutely not, but I promise you that it will be the best possible home that can be built.

### ▪ **On the Rock or Sand?**

Once we answer that question of 'why' with to bring honor and glory to God, then we can quickly answer the question of 'where.' I believe you have two choices:

1. On the solid rock of the Word of God
2. The shifting sand of pop culture

Contextually, our Scripture passage is speaking of responding to Jesus' Words in the famous Sermon on the Mount. But this principle applies to every area of a Christian's life when we are confronted with the Word of God.

**"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27)**

We can either be wise in where we build our home or we can be foolish. You can build your home on the Word of God and it will be like building it on a rock. Or, you can build it on the shifting sand of pop culture and when that tornado or rain comes, and the flood waters rise, it will fall. When it falls, great will be its fall.

Let's begin to break ground on the home of our dreams...