



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 21

Lesson Title: King Solomon Builds the Temple

Take Home Point: God fills us and we worship him.

Warm-Up:

Imagine that you are leaving on an extended vacation. Your best friend gives you a phone card so you can call her whenever you want. "Call me anytime," she says, "and remember I'll also pay for any additional time you put on the card." You are grateful, and take care to put the phone card in a prominent place in your car. As you take your trip, you mention to people you meet that you have a thoughtful and faithful friend. You make sure you know where the card is at all times. But you never call; you never actually use it. When you return, you tell your friend how appreciative you were and how it helped you think of her. Mystified, she asks, "But why didn't you use it to call me?!"

Read: 1 Kings 6 – 8

Observation (What happened?):

What occurred after the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Most Holy Place?

According to 1 Kings 6:11 and 8:61, what was required of the people for God to honor their requests and worship at the temple?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What spiritual temptation did the existence of the temple present to the Israelites?

What was God teaching Solomon and his people by the kinds of materials used in constructing and finishing the temple?

Insight:

In 1 Kings 8:27 Solomon said, *"But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"* (NIV) He understood that God could not be limited to a location like the dead idols of others. So why did God stipulate corporate worship in the form of sacrifices and festivals at the temple? These activities and events were given as a way to outwardly express the worship of the heart. They were commanded by God to ensure his people got together for worship, encouragement, education, and fellowship. Temple worship wasn't meant to replace personal spiritual worship of the true God; it was a public demonstration of a heart devoted to the Lord. That sounds a lot like what God wants from us in our relationship to him and in our church attendance, doesn't it?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you demonstrate to the Lord that you are giving him the best of your worship and time and material possessions?

What do you do throughout the week to prepare your mind, body, soul, and spirit to worship the Lord in private and in the congregation?

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