

WHAT SONG IS IN YOUR HEART?

Psalm 127

Are You Laboring In Vain?

In Mark 12, Jesus comes to the treasury of the Temple and He takes a seat with His disciples.

- Is He there to give His tithe / offering?
- Is He there to worship?
- No, He comes there to observe how people were putting their offering into the treasury.
 - Many rich people were putting in large sums of money.
 - Then a poor widow comes forward and puts in two small copper coins, which amounts to about a cent.
- Jesus calls His disciples over and says look, this woman has put more into the treasury than all the others.
 - They put in out of their surplus (**not much of God in that offering**).
 - She has put in, out of her poverty, all she owned and all she had to live on (**a lot of God in that offering**).

There is an old saying that goes like this, “Little is much if God is in it.” And the reverse can be said also, “Much is nothing if God is not in it.”

That is the theme of our next “Psalm Of The Ascent” as we continue in our Sermon Series, “What Song Is In Your Heart?”

Join me today in **Psalm 127** with a sermon entitled “Are You Laboring In Vain?”

The widow’s offering in **Mark 12** is singled out by Jesus because it had a lot of God in it and that is what Psalm 127 strives to highlight.

The Psalmist (Solomon) uses 4 things to drive his point home:

- Building A House
- The Protection Of A City
- Our Labor
- A Family

Building A House – #verses 1

- That word “vain” means empty, useless, meaningless, futile.
- God must be the architect, builder, and foundation of every successful home.
- There are 2 ways to build a house, go to Home Depot get the materials and go after it. Or you can have an expert design the plans / blueprints and then follow them.
- Too many parents raise their children their way and then ask God to bless them. Others build their families according to God’s design and then trust Him to bless it.

The story of 2 families:

- A team of New York Sociologist decided to look at 12,000 families to see if parents really have an impact upon their children.
- The story of the 2 ends of the spectrum:
 - Max Jukes
 - Unbeliever
 - His wife was an unbeliever.
 - Jonathan Edwards (Colonial Pastor / Primary instrument of God’s using to bring about the Great Awakening in Colonial America).
 - Both he and his wife Sarah were of great faith.

The Protection Of A City – verse #1

- We can see the imagery here in **Nehemiah 4:15-18**.
- British Preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon called his monthly Church Newsletter *The Sword And The Trowel* – because it’s purpose was to build up believers and teach them to defend the faith.
- Men, we are called to be the “watchman” on the wall of our homes, and also on the walls of the Church.
- But we stand our “watch” in vain if the Lord has not built the house.
 - **Hebrews 13:7** (could you turn to your children today and say, “imitate my faith”?)

Our Labor – verse #2

- In a recent Gallop Poll 70% of Americans say they “hate” their jobs”.
 - They financially cannot afford to move.
- How could Jesus, Who was here in the flesh, not grow tired of the hurt, rejection, death, and pain He saw each day, the answer is found in **John 4:33-34**.

- **Ecclesiastes 2:24**
- We work hard each day, we toil, we sweat, at the end of the day we are exhausted, but the question the Psalmist would ask us is this, “*did you labor in the right field, the field of God’s choosing*”.

A Family – verses 3-5

- Notice the words that the Psalmist uses here:
 - Gift
 - Fruit
 - Arrows
 - Blessed
- When God places a child into a family, He entrust that mom and dad with a gift and also an arrow.
 - Arrows must be shaped (forged). (**Proverbs 22:6**)
 - Arrows must be directed (helping our children start in the right direction).
 - Arrows must be released
 - Steven Lawson in his Old Testament Commentary says, “**Every parent must send their children into the world with a sense of eternal mission, not merely to make a living but to make a difference for the Kingdom of God**”.