

**I. THE HOUSE OF PRAYER IS NOT MAN'S IDEA BUT IS GOD'S AND IT'S PERSONAL**

- A. What we are building upon and beginning to do has a long tradition in the heart of God. God named the temple the house of prayer; the concept of a building being called a house of prayer was one that was in God's heart. He invented and then instituted a place where all nations could come seek and encounter Him (2Ch. 7:14-16; Is. 56:7; Mk 11:17), and He called this place the house of prayer for all nations. We are part of a long tradition of something God put into place.

***Mk 11:17*** "And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'?"

***2 Sam 7:5-13*** "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?...When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you...He is the one who will build a house for my Name."

- B. We see how personal the house of prayer is to God when we look at Isaiah 62:1 and Isaiah 62:6. God says, "I will..." This means He will sovereignly do it. He takes into His own hands.

***Is 62:1*** For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace...<sup>6</sup> I have set watchmen...

**II. WHY ITS PERSONAL - KEEPING THE VISION IN OUR OWN LIFE**

- A. ***A history in a place like this:*** God, me and these chairs, the smells, the textures, the various pacing lanes I've had over the years and my spot in the room (I've had one in every location). I am so much better off because of all the life I've lived out right here in the prayer room.

1. Numerous tender and powerful moments with the Lord in the room.
2. Hundreds of life decisions made in prayer meetings.
3. So many bad days that got turned around because I was in this room.
4. This place is a daily resetting of myself before the Lord.
5. It's a place of conviction and protection for me from lethargy.
6. It's an incredible foundation for a ministry assignment.
7. My best chance to stay steady pursuing the greatest commandment.

- B. ***Confessions of a prayer room junky:*** It's not all sunshine and roses for sure. Having lived this way for some time, I am intimately acquainted with its downside, and the many trials and traps that accompany it.

- C. ***People come and go:*** Over the years I've seen a ton of people come and go, a few have stayed around that but mostly people come, taste this lifestyle for a season and then in time they move on to something else.

***Ps 27:4*** "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

### III. WHEN OUR SOUL YEARNs FOR THE COURTS OF THE LORD:

- A. The psalmists captured this longing that is a reality God marks heart to experience.  
*Ps 84:2* “My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”
- B. *One who ministers in the House of the Lord:* I come here and tell Him I love Him and sing to Him. I see the value of it and have chosen this lifestyle; I am one who ministers to the Lord in the house of the Lord.  
*Ps 135:1-2* “Praise the name of the Lord; praise him, you servants of the Lord, you who minister in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.”
- C. *Believing it’s actually better in here:* Psalm 84 was written from an experiential position and under the anointing of the Holy Spirit that says it’s better to be in the courts of the Lord than to spend time anywhere else.  
*Ps 84:10* “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.”
- D. *Believing that your blessed because you choose to live this way:*  
*Ps 65:4* “Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple .”

### IV. HE LOVES THIS COSTLY GIFT

- A. The story of Mary pouring out the jar of expensive perfume on Jesus’ feet is one of those passages that we really need to know. This young lady spent what was probably her inheritance and life savings on a moment with Jesus. This costly perfume jar was worth a year’s wages and Mary poured it all out on Him in beautiful expression of lavish devotion.  
*Mt 26:6-13* “*While Jesus was in Bethany, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her .”*”
- B. *Your alabaster jar:* it’s not just a place to retreat to encounter God, a sweet devotional atmosphere or a ministry that contends for revival. It’s an extravagant offering we lift to Him every week and it is costly. There is a cost of doing HOPS. When things are good or when things are not so good, whether enjoyable or unrewarding, this is the alabaster jar offering.  
*Ps 132:1* *Lord, remember David And all his afflictions;...*

- C. ***A ministry straight to God:*** Jesus said we will always have people who are in need of help, money and ministry. In the midst of it, He called the lavish waste of a year's wages, a lifesaving, an inheritance being poured out on Him in a moment "a beautiful thing." The house of prayer is an anomaly; it stands out in this generation, this lifestyle is still largely unheard of in our cities and in Church culture; it is a ministry that we get to do straight to God.
- D. ***What a glorious waste:*** Many might look with question and say as they did of Mary "what a waste!" There is a God who is King, on the other end of this equation, more than merely existing He is a God who delights in this costly gift being poured out on Him.

***Heb 11:6 "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."***

#### V. HE LOVES FAITHFULNESS POURED OUT IN SECRET:

- A. God loves finding a people who are staying steady and faithful, hidden in the place of prayer.
- B. There were those who stayed faithful in the place of prayer (sons of Zadok) when everyone else gave up because of the pressures of the day God took special notice of them. They were seen by God, what better reward than the inner knowing of a life pleasing to God.
- Ez 44:15 "But the priests, who are Levites and descendants of Zadok and who faithfully carried out the duties of my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to come near to minister before me "***
- C. ***He still sees what is given in secret:*** As He gave us a window into the emotions of God we see that our secret life in God is highly valued by the Father; so much so that He promises to reward it. The picture here is a lifestyle of prayer lived out before an audience of one.
- Mt 6:4-6 "that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you...when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."***
- D. ***He will be looking for faithfulness when He comes:*** When He comes He will be looking for those who prayed night and day and didn't give up when things were tough, rough and ugly. We can be motivated by something higher than our circumstances unto to keeping this worship sanctuary because He is worthy not because it is always comfortable or convenient.
- Lk 18:1-8 "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up...And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"***
- E. ***Until He Comes:*** God is finding and setting those who call on the Lord and give no rest until He comes. I am going to give Him praise from this room (or whatever room is our prayer room) until He comes and sets Himself up as King in Jerusalem (making it the praise of the Earth).