

Except the Lord Build the House

By R.T. Nusbaum

We all have things we want to do for God, but oftentimes when we attempt to do them we are frustrated. Maybe the problem is not people who seem to block you or other people who seem to fail in helping you reach the goal, even though they have the resources or ability. Maybe the problem is that the thing you desire to accomplish for God was never meant to be accomplished by you. Maybe it will be accomplished, either by Jesus apart from you by a sovereign move or through you as you give up your ambition to do it for God.

I remember David who had a willing heart and desire to build God a house. It was a good desire, and yet it was not for them to build. God had set that task aside for Solomon, the son of David. It is significant that Jesus was called the son of David (Matt. 1:1). From this fact we can understand that Solomon represented Jesus. The son of David was to build the house, which was the temple, which was one of the main reasons why David could not be the one to build God's house. He could not though he had it in his heart to do it.

At first Nathan the prophet told David, "Do all that is in thine heart," (II Sam. 7:3), but he had to come back and tell him later that the Lord had said that he was not going to be the one to build, though He had seen David's heart (see I Chron. 22:7-10). It appears that it touched the Lord that David was willing to do this thing. The fact that he was willing meant a lot. How unlike so many people who use just saying, "I am willing" as an excuse to never do anything.

This was not the case with David. Even though he did not get to build the temple, he had the biggest, greatest time gathering all the material for it (I Chron 22:5)! Did you know that he gathered most of the material that was used to build the house? He also sought the Lord and got the pattern for it (I Chron. 28:11-13). God did not give that to Solomon. David did everything but put one brick on top of the other.

There is one clear fact that we may know: when man is trying to build his own kingdom, it grows to become a Babel of confusions. God is not first concerned about what can be accomplished. He is more interested in the spirit in which it is done. When we are constantly frustrated and reacting negatively to others, we cannot be allowed to proceed for God. When we are in such a state, we are not allowing Christ to manifest through us by His nature. We become more concerned with DOING than we are in demonstrating His Spirit and nature in spite of obstacles.

God will fulfill His plans through His Son and not just through the willingness or ambition of those who love God. If we will just set our hearts on Him, then He will take care of what He is trying to accomplish through us even though we may not fully understand that. ***

