

# Building

## HISTORY

### Call to Build By Faith

- June 2009 – the Membership approved a design and funding plan for phase 2 (a building between the North & South Buildings). Part of the funding plan that was approved was a financial trigger. The idea was that we would wait until 95% of the funds necessary for the shell of the building were in the bank before we would begin building.
- May 2013 – with \$815,000 in the Building Fund, the Membership voted to remove the previously established financial triggers and to begin building. Our facility had begun limiting ministry and we clearly understood God to be calling us to step out in faith and begin construction.
- July 6, 2014 – (a little over 5 years ago) we had a ground breaking service as the project began.

### God's Provision!

Since then, God has provided faithfully and generously! Story after story could (and has) been told of His provision in unexpected ways. A few big praises that stand out are...

- He has grown our love for one another and deepened our relationships. He has used this project to build up His people, not just a building.
- We have been able to move in and begin using the north portion of the New Building (nursery, restrooms, and classrooms) and are planning to move into the west portion (more classrooms and library) next week!
- He has provided more than \$4.5 million dollars.
- He has provided through hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of in-kind giving.
- He has brought us to this point of the project free of debt.

We could go on and on about what He has done. And we will continue to celebrate His provision and generosity!

### Potential Stall

Recently we reached a point where it was difficult to move forward at a reasonable speed due to limited funds. In fact, there was some consideration given to pausing the project (after the completion of the west portion) and waiting until

enough funds were available to move forward at a reasonable speed.

It compelled us as leaders at Emmanuel Bible Church to look to our Head and ask Him for direction for the next steps of the project.

(BTW, I can remember at least two other times in this project when we weren't sure how to proceed financially but looked to Him and He provided!)

We believe He is responding, we believe He is stirring our hearts in some significant ways, and would like to share some of those things with you this morning.

## **GOD'S CALL TO PARTICIPATE/KEEP UP**

**David** – Testimony regarding the conviction that we are falling behind the Lord in giving and God's call to him personally, to the EB, and to our church to give sacrificially.

**Michael** – Testimony regarding God's call to give.

**Brad** – Testimony regarding it not being about the amount but about obedience and sacrifice (Widows Offering).

In this time of seeking the Lord about how He would have us move forward, I was personally convicted regarding some of my faulty thinking. Faulty thinking that was limiting my participation.

I had begun believing the lie that the little I could give was relatively worthless in light of the size of this project and its price tag.

The Lord began convicting me about this through a couple things that Dennis Roth and Dan Dettwyler (my Dad) said, while we were discussing how the Lord might want us to proceed in this project. He then really drove it home with the account in [Mark 12:41-44](#) of the Widow's Offering...

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. <sup>44</sup> For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

One of the things my Dad had said is a perfect application of this passage. It was something like this...

"The Lord is honored more (and will possibly do more) with \$5 given sacrificially than with a million dollars given out of excess."

The pleasure the Lord gets from our gifts is not determined by the size of the gift but by the heart behind the gift. A heart that joyfully gives a small amount sacrificially because of who He is and what He has done brings pleasure to the Lord.

# PRACTICAL PATH FORWARD

## Guiding Convictions

- We want to be careful not to pause the project due to any lack of obedience or faith. We would be surprised if God called us to stop a project He has clearly called us to and for which He has faithfully provided.
- We need to clearly communicate amounts needed to keep the project moving forward at a reasonable pace, and not just the amount needed for the next segment.
- We need to take care of the Building Committee and contractors by providing clear direction forward. Right now the Building Committee is stuck trying to manage the unknowns of our financing plan (never knowing how much they are going to have to work with) while trying to also be considerate of contractors. There is a lot of starting, stopping, and jerking contractors around right now.

In other words, we want to move as much of the weight as possible of the financing (the faith walk) to us as a church (and as leaders). The weight (or any negative effects) of this faith walk should rest squarely on OUR shoulders... NOT on the Building Committee or our contractors.

With those things in mind, we (EB & CB) have implemented some checkpoints...

## Checkpoints

We have discovered that it takes about \$100,000 a month or \$300,000 a quarter to keep the building project going at a reasonable speed. At that rate we anticipate being able to complete the project in about 2 years.

We have decided to set \$300,000 a quarter as a checkpoint. If we don't reach the checkpoint of \$300,000 a quarter, it will trigger us going back to the Lord as leaders to seek Him regarding how He would have us proceed. We will prayerfully consider pausing the project, other financing options, slowing down, etc.

Note: we plan to communicate where we are at on this each week through a graph in the bulletin.

Disclaimer: the goal is not arm twisting but rather clear communication. God is the one who has provided and our eyes must remain on Him as the provider!

# SERMON (STAN MYERS)

## Who Owns my Wallet?

### Mark 10:17-22

Last week, we looked at a passage in Mark 8 in which Jesus said, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.*

Jesus is telling us that *being self-oriented and self-centered is incompatible with being a disciple of Jesus, because a disciple of Jesus is Christ-oriented and Christ-centered.*

A disciple of Jesus is first and foremost about His glory, His pleasure, His business.

We learned that those who live primarily to satisfy their own desires, gratify their own cravings, pursue their own ambitions, look out for their own interests, promote their own welfare, and live for their own pleasure ultimately waste their lives. For Jesus said in **verse 36**, <sup>36</sup> *...What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeits his soul?*

The answer is “nothing”. A person may achieve spectacular success through his own efforts for his own gain and glory while he lives on this earth, but in the end he will lose everything. On the Day of Judgment there will be nothing to show for it, except eternal regret.

For a disciple of Jesus life on this earth is ultimately about Jesus, because disciples of Jesus are aware that the universe is Christocentric—everything in it revolves around Him. Life on this earth is also about preparing to see Him and live with Him forever. That’s why the Bible calls us aliens and strangers in this world, and why the Bible says that our citizenship is in heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

The reason I have reminded you about this today—a day in which we are talking about the building at Emmanuel Bible Church—is because we can never separate our identity as “disciples of Christ” and our lives as “earth dwellers”. We cannot make two compartments and say, “These particular things pertain to my life as a Christ follower—my membership in the body of Christ, my church attendance, my Christian service, and my prayer life and Bible reading. While these other things pertain to my life as an earth dweller—my discretionary time, my living situation, my employment, and my money.

Jesus doesn’t permit His disciples to compartmentalize. Every aspect and detail of a disciple’s life is important to Jesus and comes under His lordship. We are His *completely*, and everything we have belongs to Him. That includes our money.

There is a revealing story in the Gospels about a man who sought out Jesus because he wanted the definitive answer to life’s most important question. We read in **Mark 10:17**.<sup>17</sup> *“...A man ran up and knelt before [Jesus] and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

Jesus said to him, *“...You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’”*

*And he said to Him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.”*

*And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."*

**Verse 22.** *Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.* Some have a view of Jesus and the gospel in which they expect the next verse to say something like, "And Jesus called after him, 'Wait, young man! I didn't *really* mean that you had to sell *all* you have and give it to the poor. I was only testing you! As long as you believe in Me, and as long as you're a good steward of your wealth and don't forget to tithe, you can follow Me and have treasure in heaven.'"

But that's not what Jesus said. We are told that <sup>23</sup>...*Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"*

Why is it difficult? Because discipleship cannot be compartmentalized. When you decide to follow Jesus you hand over everything to Him. You let Him have ownership of you and everything in your life, including your time, your dreams, your future, and your money. That is the cost of discipleship!

By the way, there is no other occasion in the Gospels where Jesus asked someone to sell all their possessions and give them to the poor. You know why? Because He was identifying a particular issue in this particular man. Jesus knew that his wealth was his god. Jesus knew that the security and freedom and comfort and pleasure that his earthly riches could give him in this life was more important and more desirable than the heavenly riches Jesus could give him in the next life. In other words, his wealth was his first love and his true lord.

Please don't conclude from this that Jesus is saying that wealth is evil or that it's wrong to be rich. Jesus is simply telling us that when He bids a person to follow Him, He insists that He be first in their life, and that they relinquish ownership of themselves and all that they have and give it to Him.

The title of this message is "Who Owns Your Wallet?" By that I mean, who owns your wealth—your bank accounts, home, vehicles, and any other assets that are in your possession? Of course you know the *right* answer. If you are a follower of Jesus you *know* that they all belong to Jesus. But is that what you really believe? Is that how you really live?

I would like to suggest a couple of ways that might reveal how to know if you *really* believe that all the assets in your possession belong to Jesus. The first has to do with how you refer to them. Do you refer to them as yours? Do you think about them as though you can do with them whatever you want, and allocate them however you want? In your conversations with other people do you refer to them as "My money, my retirement account, my house, and my assets?"

Or do you think about them as *God's*, and think about how God wants you to allocate them? In your conversations with others do you refer to these assets as God's? "It's God's money, God's home, God's vehicle."

You say, "C'mon Pastor Stan, be serious! Nobody talks like that!" Maybe not very many. But could that be because we've compartmentalized our lives and convinced ourselves that the material assets in our possession are none of God's business? After all, we earned them, we toiled for them.

I want to remind you that every aspect and detail of a disciple's life is important to Jesus and comes under His lordship. We are His *completely*, and everything we have belongs to Him. That includes our money.

The second way of knowing whether or not you really believe that all the money and material things in your possession actually belong to Jesus has to do with how you respond when He tells you to give them away—to people who need them, to a ministry, a missionary, a church.

You say, "Well He doesn't tell people stuff like that, so it's a moot point."

Oh, but He does! If you've never heard Him tell you what to do with your money it's likely because you're not listening. Just this last week he told a missionary couple to give their vehicle away to a family that needed it. I know for a fact that this missionary couple "needed" the money from the sale of that vehicle, because they had a number of financial obligations. But God told them to do it, and they did. And when I asked them about it they said, "It all belongs to God! So if He told us to do it he must have a different way of providing for our needs."

If our assets really belong to God, then He has a right to distribute them as *He* wills, and if we are listening to Him He will tell us how to distribute those assets so that those assets will be used to bring Him much glory and honor.

By the way, that is the point of having assets in this world. He's entrusted us to be stewards of those assets so that His name can be known, His message can be heard, His kingdom can advance, and His glory can be revealed. And according to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, if we don't use them in a way that are for His benefit, He will not be pleased.

That doesn't necessarily mean that He will tell you to give all your possessions away. But it doesn't mean that He won't either. He can do whatever He wants with them, since they belong to Him. But know this: you are much more important to Him than the assets that are in your possession, and He will always provide for you and take care of you.

# FULL TRANSPARENCY

## **We Are No Longer Planning to Go Back to One Service**

An expectation that many of us had at the beginning of this project was that we would be able to go back to one service, due to the size of the new sanctuary. That may have even been some of the motivation for beginning the project.

The current reality is that we will not be able to go back to one service. We recently did a study that looked at attendance, parking, etc. and it was very clear that we will not be able to go back to a single service. The Lord has grown this family! He is expanding the ministry of EBC.

There is room for grieving the fact that we will not be able to go back to one service. There is also a lot of celebrating that should happen for the work the Lord is doing in spreading the gospel and building His church!

## **The Approved Funding Cap**

If you have been around for a few years and have a good memory, you may remember that in our June 14, 2015 meeting, the Membership increased the total cost amount for the construction of Phase 2 to \$6,350,000.

You may have noticed from the recent information we put out, that our current project completion estimate is higher than that at \$7,201,703. (you get there by adding the 4.56 million dollars that the Lord has already provided and the 2.63 million dollars in today's building costs that is still needed)

We have been discussing this and here is a statement from our Church Board on this topic...

*More than four years ago the church board and the elder board led us to a vote to proceed with the building project. At that time, the projected and approved cost was \$6.35M. Since the intended approach was to build as funds became available, the projection did not include an anticipated inflation factor, as we had no reference regarding the construction timeframe. In the interim since that vote, much progress has been made, but construction costs have also increased substantially – however, through many volunteers and a large amount of in-kind giving by various contractors, the projected cost overrun is expected to be far less than inflation would dictate. Because our timeline is still dictated by the availability of funds, we are not yet able to predict a final cost. To avoid voting and possibly needing to revote in the future, as long as work can be performed under the currently approved cap, our intent is to hold the final projection until we're closer to completion and can present an accurate final cost.*

# GIVING TIPS

## Designations

Note: offerings are rarely designated to the building fund.

- Automatic weekly designations
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays: Missions
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays: General
  - 5<sup>th</sup> (various designations alternating between MC & CB)
- You can designate with envelopes or notes on the memo line of your check.
- Quarterly Account Balances in Bulletin
  - Building (haven't actually used the \$250,000 line of credit yet – which is used to secure contracts - but will dip into that if funds do not come in before bills are due)

## Online Giving

- Go to [ebcsalem.com](http://ebcsalem.com)
- Click on “Giving”
- You will have the option of a “One-Time” gift
- Or you can set up “Recurring Giving”
- If you select “Recurring Giving” you will be taken to a page where you will enter some basic information.
- On the next page you can enter recurring amounts for...
  - General Fund
  - Missions Fund
  - Building Fund
  - Deacons Fund