

Day 37: Building for the Future

As a church, we want to be wise stewards of all that God gives us—opportunities, talents, resources, and facilities. We have been clear that the church is not brick, mortar, sheetrock, and furniture. It is the people. Above all, we want to build up and disciple people who grow into people of profound love, character, and good works. Our buildings—both present and future—can be powerful tools in that mission.

How have buildings and environments been used as tools in your journey with Jesus?

Our focus scriptures for today are Luke 14:28–30

²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’”

Jesus is using this parable to describe counting the personal cost we all need to consider and pay if we are going to follow Him as His disciples. And the principle is true for us as we consider and discern God’s direction with this building project. We must count the cost before we say yes to this project. This four-year project comes with a high cost. This project will be expensive. This project will cost us comfort and routine. Our groups and facilities will be impacted over the short term. We will have to commit to being unified and flexible. But our goal is not to complete a building project but to establish a discipleship training center and expand our worship spaces so all ages are transformed and empowered to leave our walls to love and influence others where they live, work, and play. Our plan is to share our facilities with our community, engaging and blessing them seven days a week. Ultimately, we want to become a disciple-making hub so our communities flourish.

Pause to consider what saying yes to this building project will cost you, your family, and our church family. What adjustments will we all need to make if we say yes?

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” take some time to pray for our church body, especially our Elders, that all of us hear and heed God’s direction concerning this project. Additionally, make a list of any questions you have about the project you can ask during one of the scheduled town hall events.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, be challenged and inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27 and Isaiah 54:2-3:

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears My teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the

rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

² “Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense! ³ For you will soon be bursting at the seams. Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.