

Sermon Notes Sunday 3rd March 'Dedication and Commission'

Share together what your hopes and dreams are for the Old Mission Hall. 1 Kings 8 sets the context for the completion of Solomon's temple and his prayer of dedication. In this passage from his prayer, we see 3 key words:

Wholehearted – Descendants - Mercy

Read 1 Kings 8:22-30

God's Faithfulness v22-24.

Notice God keeps his covenant of love with those who 'continue wholeheartedly in His way'.

- What does it mean to be 'whole hearted'?

The Hebrew understanding of 'the heart' included the emotions, but it also involved the mind, the conscience and the will. It means everything that is going on inside of you. All the men and women whom God chose to use greatly had weaknesses and made mistakes. But God saw their hearts were turned towards him. It is your heart that matters. Your heart lies 'open before the Lord' (Proverbs 15:11, 1 Kings 8:39).

- What does God see when he looks at your heart?

Whilst we heed the challenge of verse 61 and recognise we are all works in progress, know that God loves you and approves of you and wants to fill you with his joy today. How does that make you feel?

Successive generations v25-26

Much of the vision behind the OMH is that successive generations will be nurtured in faith. Notice the 'if only' condition attached in verse 25

- When we think about our children or grandchildren, what can we do to ensure 'our descendants' (i.e. the next generation) are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully' (v25)?

Prayer for mercy v27-30

The theme of the mercy of God runs throughout the Bible (e.g. 'God is rich in mercy' Ephesians 2:4). Jesus has made the mercy of God available to all (Hebrews 9:22)

- How often do we pray for mercy (in repentance of our sin) and thank God for the total forgiveness available in Jesus?
- How could you be involved in seeing the OMH be a place set apart for prayer, for seeking God's mercy on our community, on our land?

Pray together that this vision for the OMH might become a reality.

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