



Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.mzluth.org

January 3, 2010

2nd Sunday after Christmas

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Pastor Randy Ott

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:13-20

Gospel: Luke 1:68-75

God Establishes an Eternal House

1. Built on Promises Made
2. Built Eternally on Promises Kept

Have you ever had any scenario like this happen in your life? You come into the room where the TV is on and someone is sitting there, but they've got a laptop on their lap and they're on the internet and they have a phone sitting next to them that keeps beeping and they're texting back. So you grab the remote and change it. What's the first thing you hear? "Hey! I was watching that!" What do you mean, you're watching that? You're doing three other things at the same time. How in the world were you possibly watching that, right?

Have you seen the same thing when you drive down the road? If you look over at the person next to you, are they putting on makeup, or shaving, or reading the paper, or texting, or talking on the phone and still managing to drive in a way that annoys you?

We like to think that we're multitaskers, right? That's what we call that, right? Multitasking – taking and making the most of all of our time; we're really gifted at that, aren't we? We like to think so at times. If we can do a couple things at once, we think we're really doing something.

But tell me, how truly good are we at multitasking; keeping our focus on a couple different things at once? Look at the society around us and I would say we're not that good at it. You walk in the store and the Christmas displays are already down and the Valentines stuff is up. You come to church this morning, you just sing "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice." Do you say "Hey, why are we singing that? Christmas is over. Let's get on with it. Let's keep moving." Our idea of multitasking is doing or focusing on a few things that we want to do at a time. But keeping everything in view at once and the things that are really truly eternally important, keeping that in focus? I would say that quite often we are probably more shaped by the society around us that wants to move onto the next thing instead of keeping the vital eternal things that are important in front of our eyes at all times as we are doing everything else and viewing everything else through the lenses of what is eternally important. I'm not quite so convinced we're as good at that kind of multitasking.

Consider what I just read to you from 2 Samuel. When God talks to David, he's not only talking about what he's going to do with the son that would come from his own body and

who was going to build the temple. He's also talking to him about an eternal kingdom. He's also talking to him about things that are going to happen, not just right after David dies, but a thousand years after David dies. And things that are going to continue on, even through today, and continue on even through all of eternity.

If you want to talk about multitasking, take a look at what your Lord does. Take a look at all the promises he makes and take a look at all the promises he keeps. Then put that on one side of the scale and put on the other side of the scale how often you and I take the time to focus on those promises. So who is the real multitasker here?

God's promises to us are all "yes, in Christ Jesus" Scripture says. As we worship our God today, we see that these promises kept are what change us. Focus on the promises that God was making to David were to change David. You and I don't have to live without seeing things like David did. We've seen the results, so we see how God has established David's house on these promises made and these promises kept.

Think about what David had wanted from the Lord. What David wanted more than anything else was to build a house for the Lord. He was living in a paneled palace and the Lord's house was still that tent that Moses had drug around the desert. He didn't think that was right. He didn't think he should be in a better place and live in a better place than where the Lord would cause his glory to dwell. So he wanted to build him that house. Did you hear what God said in here when God was talking to him? He said, "You're not going to do it. I'm not going to let you do it. It's going to be a son that comes from your own body that is going to do it. It's not going to be you though."

If you put yourself in David's shoes and as you read over all that, would that be the only thing that would stick in your mind so you don't hear those other glorious promises that God makes? Isn't that how we are sometimes? When God says "no" to us in one area, we focus on that area and we forget about all the other glorious promises God has made and has kept to us. Multitasking; we don't multitask. We obsess at times about where God isn't doing exactly what we want, when we want and how we want, right?

Then Satan crawls in our ears and says "See, God doesn't love you." And we are such terrible multitaskers at times we are tempted to doubt that God loves us and believe that truth.

I wonder how good David was at that. I have to say from reading some of the Psalms he wrote; sometimes he was pretty good at it. I'd have to say from reading some of the other Psalms he wrote, some of his penitential Psalms, there are times he admits he didn't always focus on the other promises of God but just the ones that God said "no" to, the requests he made that God said no to, and it led him into sin. He had to turn away from that sin and say "Lord, I have failed you. I've looked at myself instead of at you. I am filthy and rotten. If you O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?"

But he continues on to speak about God's unfailing love. So when God tells him that a son from his own body was going to build that house for God, I have to believe that

David believed in God's unfailing love, that God would do it. When he says that even though that son of mine, Solomon, who would come, is going to do wrong and I will punish him, 10 Northern Tribes taken away from Solomon after Solomon died because his son was a fool; those things happened. God spoke very clearly about what he would do, just like God speaks to us very clearly.

When Satan can convince us that when bad things happen to us it must mean that God doesn't love us, the only way he can convince us of that is if we haven't paid any attention at all to Scripture or if we spend no time at all in reading Scripture. If we think that was just for back when we were doing homework in grade school and now it has no meaning for me, so now I don't need to do it, then Satan can get in our ear and slap us around a little bit. In Scripture, God lays it out pretty clearly. You and I live in a sinful world. In a sinful world, there are going to be problems. There are going to be difficulties. There are going to be challenges. There is going to be pain. There is going to be heartache. There is going to be suffering. God says that over and over. Read through the Psalms. Read through some of Paul's letters. He says it over and over and over because God knows exactly how thick-headed you and I are and how we are not good multitaskers. We focus on the things that maybe trouble us and forget the good things that God does for us.

That's why he says it over and over and over so we are ready when Satan comes and we don't fall into that sin of doubting God in those situations. God promised there is going to be difficulty, but he promises he is going to be with us through it all. He will never abandon us. Neither height, nor depth, nor angels, nor demons, anything in all Creation can separate us from his love that's in Christ Jesus. That's his promise.

We can be absolutely certain of that because while he was talking to David about who is going to build the temple, he also told David, "I'm not taking that throne away from your son. It will continue forever, eternally." And it's not just that throne that's going to be there in Jerusalem. He's talking about Christ's kingdom. Christ's eternal kingdom where Christ rules, not by an army, not by might, not by force, but by grace and by love. He willingly takes the beatings of men and the floggings of men and carries our sins to Calvary and then dies in our place. He perfectly keeps the Law because you and I are full of doubts and uncertainty. You and I are full of chasing after our own tails instead of listening to God's Word. We needed someone to be perfect in our place, and that's who Jesus was.

He kept the promise. He established his house forever through Jesus' life and death. Now God has placed everything under his feet and made his enemies a footstool, as Paul said to the Ephesians. So now, he rules that eternal kingdom.

You and I are part of that kingdom now, not just in the future when he takes us to heaven. Then we'll have it perfectly, but we have it now. We have the victory. We live in his kingdom. His Spirit lives in our hearts. We've got the promises kept. We've got eternity already.

The only reason at times we don't live as though we already have it is because we are still sinful fools. And the antidote to sinful fools is God's Gospel, God's grace and God's mercy. That's why making use of the Word of God is not just a thing for kids. It isn't Count Chocula cereal. It's something for grownups. It's something that's going to fill you and strengthen you so you get through all the difficulties that this world brings, with your king at your side, with his strength as your strength, and with his promises as your refuge.