ASSEMBLE church
Know God · Find Freedom · Discover Purpose · Make A Difference

Message

Title: The Building Is Just The Beginning Are You Ready
Speaker: Pastor Dom O'Connell
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"Faith isn't knowing every step. Faith is knowing the One who is calling us to step."

Introduction

This week, set aside one deliberate moment to consecrate yourself before God — not to do more for Him, but to belong more fully to Him.

Have you ever got everything ready on the outside, only to realise you weren't quite ready on the inside?

On the opening night of our new home at Barmby Gate, Pastor Dom O'Connell asked a question far bigger than bricks and mortar: are you ready? Walking through God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12, we discovered that God's people are called to be burden bearers, blessing receivers and blessing carriers. Abraham was told to go before he was shown where — because the destination isn't always disclosed before the obedience is required. In the same way, our church has stepped out without a map, trusting the faithfulness of the One who called us.

But a finished building is not a finished mission. Standing at the Jordan in Joshua 3, God's people were told to consecrate themselves, because tomorrow the Lord would do amazing things among them. We can have every light working, every carpet tile laid and every rota filled, and still not be ready ourselves. The promise is bigger than the property. This isn't the finish line — it's the place from which we go. So we honour those who carried the burden, we receive the blessing God has provided, and we set our hearts apart for whatever He wants to do next in Newark and beyond.

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-3 — Now Yahweh said to Abram, “Leave your country, and your relatives, and your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you.
I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who treates you with contempt. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Hebrews 11:8 — By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out to the place which he was to receive for an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went.

Isaiah 6:8 — I heard the Lord’s voice, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

Galatians 3:14 — that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Joshua 3:5 — Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow Yahweh will do wonders among you.”

Joshua 3:13 — It shall be that when the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of Yahweh, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan will be cut off. The waters that come down from above shall stand in one heap.”

John 4:35 — Don’t you say, ‘There are yet four months until the harvest?’ Behold, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and look at the fields, that they are white for harvest already.

Ezra 3:10-13 — When the builders laid the foundation of Yahweh’s temple, they set the priests in their clothing with trumpets, with the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise Yahweh, according to the directions of David king of Israel.
They sang to one another in praising and giving thanks to Yahweh, “For he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever toward Israel.” All the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Yahweh, because the foundation of Yahweh’s house had been laid.
But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ households, the old men who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice. Many also shouted aloud for joy,
so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard far away.

Haggai 2:9 — ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says Yahweh of Armies; ‘and in this place will I give peace,’ says Yahweh of Armies.”

Psalm 145:3-5 — Great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised!
His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation will commend your works to another,
and will declare your mighty acts.
Of the glorious majesty of your honor,
of your wondrous works, I will meditate.

Don't Miss This

- God rarely gives you the map before He asks for the move: Abraham was told to go to a land God had not yet shown him. Obedience came first, clarity came later. If you're waiting for every question to be answered before you take a step, you may be waiting a very long time. Faith isn't knowing every step — it's knowing the One who is calling you to step.
- You were blessed so the blessing could travel: God told Abraham, 'All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' The blessing was never meant to stop with him, and it's never meant to stop with us. A building isn't given to be admired, it's given to be used. Make room for someone else, share your table, share your time, share your faith.
- Everything can be ready except you: At the Jordan, God didn't tell His people to build a bridge — He told them to consecrate themselves. You can have every cable plugged in and every carpet hoovered and still not be prepared. God doesn't need a busier church; He needs a church that is His. Before the miracle comes consecration.
- Provision is proof of God's faithfulness, not our brilliance: Notice who does the heavy lifting in Genesis 12: 'I will make... I will bless.' We work, give, plan and steward — but we can't manufacture the promise. From a stranger fixing the boiler to a neighbour clearing the garden waste, what we've witnessed can only be put down to God.

Let's Chat

1. Of the four questions asked — are you ready to bear the burden, receive the blessing, carry the blessing, and consecrate yourself? — which one lands hardest for you right now, and why?
2. Where is God currently asking you to move before you can see the full picture? What's making that hard?
3. Pastor Dom said 'the promise is bigger than the property.' What are the things in your life that you might be tempted to treat as the destination rather than the vehicle?

4. Consecration means being set apart for God. What specifically is competing for your attention and worship at the moment, and what would putting distance between you and it actually look like this week?
5. Think of someone you could 'make room' for — a neighbour, colleague, or newer believer. What's one practical, inconvenient act of love you could offer them before we meet again?