**Upon This Rock**

**A People for His Name – Equipping People**

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# **SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. What do they need to know?

* We are building people for the glory of God.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* So that they can bring glory to God.

# **OPENING LINE**

**“What God has commanded me to do, I cannot do it alone”- Dr. Tony Soldano**

# **BACKGROUND**

When the perfect man failed (Adam) God called Abraham—the willing man! From the midst of a pagan society and many false gods, God called Abraham to follow him to a city whose builder and maker was God. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. From there, God appeared and revealed himself to Jacob and changed his name from “deceiver” to Israel. Eventually, Israel will become a people, a nation, and God would make covenant with them.

From these patriarchs we can see the pattern of how God calls people, makes covenant with them, and ultimately reveals who He is and His will.

We are building a people for His name! God has always had a people, a nation, and a remnant, that would display His glory and accomplish His purposes in the earth. God reveals Himself to His people and through Him they live out His values and demonstrate His incredible power.

Jesus said He would build the Church, but we are to build His people. It is no different today—God operates through His people: the Church, the body of Christ, the family of God.

# **INTRODUCTION TO THE SERMON**

We have talked about our vision, our values even the pillars of our faith. Where do we go from here?

God is a builder by nature, He is always hard at work to accomplish His dream on the earth. In fact, Jesus said, “My Father and I work”. He is building a people for His great name, a people that will glorify Him and bring Him joy and pleasure.

# **CENTRAL TRUTH**

God commanded Moses what to build, but the people built what God asked. What does God want to build and how are you a part of it? What are we building here at APC?

# **MAIN PASSAGES**

**Acts 15:14**

Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

**Exodus 31:1-11**

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: **2**“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. **3And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of* workmanship**, **4**to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, **5**in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all *manner of* workmanship.

**6**“And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and **I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:** **7**the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that *is* on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle— **8**the table and its utensils, the pure *gold* lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense, **9**the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base— **10**the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+31%3A1-11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-2431a)]garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests, **11**and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy *place.* **According to all that I have commanded you they shall do.”**

# **Observations From the Passage**

* God is very specific when He gives instructions on what He desires to be built
* Those that are called are filled with God’s Spirit, made in His likeness and image
* God’s people are called before they are filled
* The people made what God commanded Moses
* It takes everyone to accomplish what God has instructed
* God’s commands are not suggestions.

# **TRANSITION STATEMENT**

***If this is your house, God has something uniquely for your you here. This is your inheritance.***

***And at what point do you become a part of the family?***

**OTHER PASSAGES**

Throughout the Bible we see passages of God calling out people for His name, consider:

**Titus 2:14**

…who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

**1Peter 2:9**

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**1Kings 19:18**

Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

# **MAIN POINTS**

1. **Why do we exist?**
   1. Today let’s ask ourselves a hard why!
      1. Why are we here?
      2. Why are we called out?

* 1. Why do we exist at APC?
     1. To make disciples – Christ followers - to train and develop people
     2. To preach the Word of God
     3. To bring healing and restoration
     4. To be an apostolic house (sending, relational, and community)

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

**11**And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12**for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29285a)]edifying of the body of Christ, **13**till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;…

1. **What are we commanded to build?** 
   1. A people for His name – Jesus Himself, as commander-in-chief, instructs us to make disciples. In fact, these were His last instructions found in Matthew 28. We are to build people by teaching them the principles of the Kingdom and investing in them.
      1. Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
      2. Jesus said, “I will build the church”, but you build people
      3. Disciples of Christ:
         1. Identity is in Christ
         2. Submission is to Christ
         3. Building something great
         4. Make other disciples
   2. The Church cannot function on just the gift of one person
      1. Discover what is in the people: gifts and anointings?
      2. “They shall build what I have commanded you” – build according to specifics
      3. What God has commanded me – I cannot do it on my own.
2. **What sets His people apart? They are filled by/with the Spirit of God** 
   1. It’s not that God’s people are filled by the Spirit with some foreign object but rather God fills them with His very own SPIRIT – this means His nature, attributes and abilities. WE HAVE GOD INSIDE OF US!
   2. We are filled with His:
      1. Wisdom – the right application of knowledge
      2. Knowledge – information, facts and know how
      3. Understanding – the ability to comprehend, skill and capacity
         1. Ephesians 1:17 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, …
            1. The world has made many advances, but has the church?

Some movements remain in a time warp

God’s revelations are progressive

* + - * 1. The Bible is the book of wisdom!

# **QUOTES**

*“God’s people are called before they are filled”.*

*“God does not only fill people, He fills them with His very own spirit”.*

*“God is very specific in His instructions”.*

*“God’s commands are not suggestions”.*

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*“God is very specific in His instructions”*

*“When we do not use things to serve God, things become gods to us”*

*“Jesus builds the church - the church builds people”*

*“Christianity was made for moments like this – Selah”*

*“You can have your own opinions but not your own facts” ~Unknown*

*“God's war strategy is an army of sheep led by a Lion”*

*“Jesus defeated the Roman Empire without lifting a sword”*

**Thoughts On the Nation**

* The nation is fractured
* The laws are applied with bias
* People do not feel safe
* The nation has turned from God
* No western leader condemned the actions of police in Ottawa
* Jesus died for the nation.

# **SERMON CONCLUSION**

The call to action:

* These values are not about plaques on a wall
* God creating and curating a people for His glory – disciples
* Where do you fit in?
* Where does God want you to serve?
* What does God want to create in you?
* Step into the role
* If this is your church, there is something uniquely here for you.

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

1. What gifts and anointings do you bring to the table?
2. What has God commanded you to build?
3. What has God asked you to build? What are the specifics?
4. What can we draw from the fact that God speaks to Moses but anoints the people to build?
5. Give an example of how God fills you with His wisdom, knowledge and understanding. How did it impact you and those around you?
6. How is God equipping you to do the work of the ministry?
7. How would you say that Ephesians 2:10 has impacted your life? Do you have revelation in the good works that God has called you to walk in?