

Sermon Outline

The Blessing of Sacrifice, Part Four - The Cost and the Crown of Commitment

2 Chronicles 3:1-2; 7:1-5

This has been a rich season of discipleship in stewardship, a pilgrimage to raise faith and vision that we might grow in grace, personally and congregationally learning to be more faithful followers of Jesus. On this journey to commitment, we have learned from Abraham that sacrifices made in the present secure blessings in the future; from David that sacrifices made in the name of the Lord secure the praise of the name of the Lord; and from Paul that equal sacrifices of unequal gifts are the hallmark of a people captured by grace.

We come now to our day of commitment. This is the day of discovering how God has worked in us and what we expect him to do. You have humbled yourselves in prayer and fasting; you have sought for God's guidance; your leaders and others have made great sacrificial commitments already. Where will we go from here?

Go with me briefly from ground-breaking to fire-falling.

I. *The Foundation of the House – 2 Chronicles 3:1-2*

- A. Out of our Past Failures – Foundations of Grace
- B. Out of the Past Fathers – Blessings of Generations

II. *The Fire on the House – 2 Chronicles 7:1-5*

- A. The Finished Work on the House – Prayer and our Greater Solomon
- B. The Fire of the Lord in the House – Glory and a Still Greater Covenant
 - ? Only One Thing to Do – WORSHIP!
 - ? Praise, Blessing, and even More Sacrifice!

III. *The Future of the House – Ezra 1:1-4*

- A. Facing Failure – God will govern!
 - ? Dwight Eisenhower's *Two* Notes for D-Day: June 6, 1944.
- B. Facing the Future – God will act!

Almost 400 years ago, a small and persecuted group of Reformed Christians made a commitment. They made an incredible sacrifice. They would discover later that God had gone before them, but they could not see that as they set out. But set out they did, and thank God they did so. And out of their theological heritage, remarkable faith, incredible sacrifice, and unflinching commitment, trusting even as they were blown off course, a new nation was built.

We are their children. We, too, are Mayflower people. Let us do as our fathers and mothers before us have done, like them raising up far more than a building.

Let the journey begin.

Let the commitment be made.