

**Sermon Series:** Songs for the Seasons of Life — Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—5/11/08  
**Title:** “Two Songs for Moms and Dads”  
**Text:** Psalm 127 and 128  
**Intro.:** *Ills.:*  
**Theme:** Building a God-blessed home, in the midst of a challenging and exasperating world culture, begins and ends with a respect for God’s blessing and responsibility and a trust in his gifts and grace to accomplish it.

### ***Let the Lord build your home***

- Entrust your “threats” to him (**Print Psalm 127: 1-2**)
- 1. Frantic parenting leads to empty results (twice David uses the word vain/empty/vanity)
  - a. World tells us to build our homes/kids/marriages – more sports events, more education opportunity, more career builders, more vacations/pleasures, more 529 college savings plans, more retirement nest eggs, etc.
  - b. *"Absolutely pointless!" says the spokesman. "Absolutely pointless! Everything is pointless." What do people gain from all their hard work under the sun? Generations come, and generations go, but the earth lasts forever. Ecclesiastes 1: 2-4*
  - c. We wonder why we are exhausted, marriages are broken, kids are rebellious, soul is spiritually-bone-dry
  - d. *Why do you spend money on what cannot nourish you and your wages on what does not satisfy you? Listen carefully to me: Eat what is good, and enjoy the best foods. Open your ears, and come to me! Listen so that you may live! I will make an everlasting promise to you—the blessings I promised to David. Isaiah 55: 2-3*
- 2. “**Repent and rest**” is how we let God build it
  - a. We worry too much about phantoms around every corner rather than entrusting the care and keep to God (**1b**)
  - b. *For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing, Isaiah 30:15*
  - c. Through confession/forgiveness within your home which will give your family rest from sins harsh damage (**2**)
  - d. *Be angry without sinning. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the devil any opportunity to work. Eph 4: 26-27*
- Look for the Lord to resource your godly home (**Print Psalm 127: 3-5**)
- 1. Viewing child-rearing and children as a **gift** rather than as an **asset** of your life
  - a. Ancient agrarian view of children on the farm homestead – many children selfishly seen as an asset to expend
  - b. **Ills.: Karen’s Dad’s hard work and paying for the farm twice**
  - c. Modern view of children--a way to live out child-hood which you did not have--selfish not too many to enjoy
  - d. God’s view (reverse thinking) you are not passing down to your children/God passing down a heritage to you(**3**)
  - e. *Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the Lord. Psalm 102:18*
  - f. **Ills.: passing on inheritance/treasure**
- 2. Train them up as the “**nation of the Lord**”
  - a. *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9*
  - b. David uses militaristic terms to describe family/children (*quiver is full, arrows in the hands 4-5a*)
  - c. Training them for the spiritual battle that will rage all around them throughout their life
  - d. God promises when you commit to their spiritual preparation above all else, you, home, life will be blessed (**5b**)

### ***Let the Lord bless your home***

- It begins and ends with “**the fear /respect of the Lord**” (**Print Psalm 128: 1-4**)
- 1. Blessedness is not what we have but who we are (*makarios*) (**vs. 1-2**)
  - a. We define blessing as possession/circumstance --we become bored and dissatisfied with home, spouse, family
  - b. Respecting the Lord for calling in life he has granted gives contentment (married/single/childless/with children)
  - c. *Everyone should live the life that the Lord gave him when God called him. . . I'm saying this for your benefit, not to restrict you. I'm showing you how to live a noble life of devotion to the Lord without being distracted by other things. 1 Cor.7:17,35*

2. Treating with respect other family members as you would the Lord himself
  - a. Especially speaking to men/husbands/fathers to cultivate and care for wife and children (**vs. 3**)
  - b. *So husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. No one ever hated his own body. Instead, he feeds and takes care of it, as Christ takes care of the church. Ephes. 5:28-29*
  - c. Children and parents mutually respecting each other (*Place yourselves in submission to one another out of respect for Christ. Eph 5: 21*)
- God's intends to bless our life when he builds the home (**Print Psalm 128: 5-6**)
1. **Ills.: This Old House – finding the jewel in ancient timbers**

### **Psalm 127**

<sup>1</sup>Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

<sup>2</sup>In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat--for he grants sleep to those he loves.

<sup>3</sup>Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.

<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

### **Psalm 128**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.

<sup>2</sup>You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

<sup>3</sup>Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

<sup>4</sup>Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem,

<sup>6</sup>and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.