

Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, July 18/19, 2015

Scott Fameli

“BROKEN ARROWS”

Unless the Lord Builds the House
A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.

Psalm 127

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.
2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;
3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.
5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

1. Faith in anything plus faith in God = vanity. Faith in God plus faith in nothing = rest. (v1-2, Ex 20:3, Ecc1, Ec 12:13, Eph 2:8-10)
2. Families are the nurseries where the citizens of society are grown. The eternal threat to the spiritual transformation and stability of this generation is a clear and present danger. (reference A Family Well Ordered by Cotton Mather Chpt 1, c. 1699, John 10:10).
3. Unless we are transformed by the Gospel, broken and unregenerate, we will be put to shame when we encounter our enemies. (v4-5, Rom 1:6, 2Tim 1:6-7, Acts 26:18, 1Cor 6:9-11)
4. The war for the hearts and souls of the next generation will be fought with the weapons forged by and for the Lord and the gates of Hell will not prevail. (Rom 1:16, Mat 16:13-18, Isa 54:16-17)
5. Redemptive fear turns us back to God and allows us to be sanctified through our suffering. Suffering is not a sign God has abandoned us and may very well be a sign of him restoring our hearts to Him. (Jdg 10:16, Isa 1:27, 43:1-2, Mat 3:8, Acts 2:38)

6. Whether we are parenting children or leading adults, our savior will be found out by our religion. (Mark 7:6-7)

Religion = The values and beliefs we hold that guide our lives based on the object of our faith and worship.

7. We can rest because we know God never does. (v2, Deut 31:6, Psalm 121:1-4, 139)

8. Apart from God all our efforts are anxious toil and come without true rest. (v2, Prov 19:21, 16:9)

Growing Notes:

1. Review and consider all the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120 – 134) and how they might prepare your heart and mind to “be in the right place” as you approach God for pray, worship and discipleship. Which of these stands out to you most and why?
2. Read Psalm 127 – What stands out from the Psalm and from the teaching? Define your house, your city, your warrior experience and your arrow experience.
3. The family is the place from which citizens are shaped and societal foundational are built. Was vanity displayed in your house, and if so how? How do those issues affect you today? In what ways has the Gospel redeemed those issues in you or your family?
4. Judges 10 shows an example where, even after they repented, God left the people of Israel to suffer from their choices to worship other God's, but God still “was impatient about their misery”. The story shows that God sometimes accomplishes our restoration through our suffering. Have you ever felt abandoned by God? And, how does this perspective help you?

Parents – Using the “We Need To Talk” hand out, prepare yourselves to have an investigative, intentional, safe, welcoming, purposeful & conversational with your kids and then do it.