

Life Group notes on Genesis 11:1-9

Genesis 11:1-9 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Notes

Cathy shared the story involves the people of Babel attempting to build a tower that would reach to heaven. It is one of the saddest and most significant stories in the Bible. The Tower of Babel, plain and simple, was an act of rebellion against God. This story matters because we see what happens when mankind tries to prevent the acts of God. They tried to create their own ark of salvation, their own fortress!

The people were doing what seemed best for themselves and not what God had commanded. Their building project symbolized the pride and arrogance of humans who were trying to be equal with God. The people of Babel learned that the tower couldn't save them. They needed to find salvation through God. So not only must we follow God's instructions for strength in ourselves, but also for strength in unity.

God said in Genesis 11:6

"If as one people speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

Therefore, unity in the body of Christ is so important in our efforts to accomplish God's purposes on earth. Their common language meant they could set up and achieve common goals. In essence, they were all pulling in the same direction. The only problem was the direction they were going was not toward God but away from him.

This tower of Babel story is a wake-up call for the body of Christ for the same reason God mentions in verse 6. If the church as one people can start speaking the same language, nothing will be impossible. This is a reminder of how important unity is.

Questions

- 1) What towers (acts of rebellion) have you built in your life?
- 2) Cathy mentioned her own wrestle with obedience to a call on her life and trying to go her own way, have you experienced something this? Are you experience this now?
- 3) Unity is mentioned many times in the Bible, why do you think we struggle to see this reality our churches? How can we change this?
- 4) Proverbs 16:9 says, 'In their heart's humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.' Have you found this to be true? How/why?