



Pastor Ron Carpenter | Redemption Church

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God has a design for His Kingdom, His Church, and our lives. Jesus brought the reality of heaven to earth and invites us to experience His Kingdom through obedience and relationship with Him.

God's house is meant to be more than a place we attend. It should be a place where people encounter His presence, experience transformation, healing, and restoration. As we choose His presence over busyness and comfort, we can become people who carry the reality of His Kingdom wherever we go.

OPEN IN PRAYER

ICEBREAKER

Pastor Ron shared that three different people gave him the same prophetic word: that he would accomplish more between the ages of 55 and 65 than in all his previous years combined. He also shared that he believes the greatest thing God created him to do is still ahead of him.

Have you ever had a sense that God still has something ahead of you that you haven't experienced yet? What makes you believe that?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH

Read: Ephesians 2:18-22; John 3:12-13

Jesus did not come simply to help us get from earth to heaven. He brought the reality of heaven to earth through His Kingdom. Pastor Ron described Jesus' teachings and obedience as keys that unlock what God wants to do in and through our lives.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you about the idea that obedience can be a "key" that unlocks God's Kingdom in our lives?





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- Where in your life do you most need to experience more of God's peace, joy, healing, wisdom, or restoration?
- What might it look like to intentionally bring the reality of God's Kingdom into that area this week?

2. GOD'S HOUSE

Read: Ephesians 2:18-22; Genesis 28:10-17

Pastor Ron described three levels of God's work: the Kingdom, the global Church, and the local house. God's design is for His people to have a place where His presence is experienced and where heaven and earth connect.

Discuss:

- What is the difference between viewing church as an organization you attend and viewing it as God's house?
- What do you think God wants people to experience when they encounter His Church?
- How can our church become more of a place where people encounter God's presence rather than simply attend a service?

3. RECOVERING GOD'S DESIGN

Read: Genesis 28:10-17

Pastor Ron challenged the tendency for churches to adopt corporate or consumer-driven models instead of following God's design. The purpose of the Church is not simply to make people comfortable or entertained. It is to transform people.

Discuss:

- What are some ways we can unintentionally approach church with a consumer mindset?
- What is the difference between being inspired by church and being transformed by God?
- What is one area where God may be asking you to move from simply attending to actively growing, serving, or becoming more like Jesus?

4. CHOOSING THE BETTER PORTION

Read: Luke 10:38-42





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Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet while Martha was distracted by everything she felt needed to be done. Jesus called Mary's choice the "better portion."

Discuss:

- What kinds of distractions or responsibilities most often compete for your attention with God?
- Why can it be difficult to prioritize God's presence when there is always something that needs to be done?
- What is one practical way you can choose the "better portion" this week?

5. A HOUSE OF TRANSFORMATION

Read: Isaiah 35:8-10; Job 28:7-8

God's design for His house is that it would be a place where people encounter Him, experience healing and restoration, and find freedom. Pastor Ron described God's way as a place where the enemy does not have access.

Discuss:

- What would it look like for people to consistently experience healing, restoration, freedom, and God's presence when they encounter our church?
- How does the way we treat and welcome people contribute to the culture of our church?
- What part can you personally play in helping create an environment where others can encounter Jesus?

PERSONAL / GROUP CHALLENGE

This week, ask God to show you where you may have become more focused on **activity than His presence, comfort than transformation, or attending than participating.**

As a group, pray that God would make your homes, your relationships, and your church a place where people encounter His presence and experience the reality of His Kingdom.

Consider asking each person to share:

What is one "key" of obedience God is asking you to use this week?





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CLOSING PRAYER

