

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



2021 | VOLUME 6 | NUMBER 18

“**Keep the change**” is a phrase we know well, even though we hear it less frequently because we are using less cash in our lives. “Keep the Change” is the title of our new worship series, but it’s not about money. It’s about identifying the “change” we’ve experienced in our lives over the last year, and, rather than long for a return to the way things used to be, we may resolve to “keep” the things. What “change” have we had in our lives of faith over the past year that we should “keep” because it causes greater blessing in our new world?

1. What was the “change” we were invited to “keep” this past Sunday? What ideas, realizations, or decisions came to you as you experienced that?
2. Turn to 1 Kings 8:29-30. In your study Bible, discover “which temple” of the three Solomon is dedicating. To what does Solomon point as the place believers should pray? Discuss, then: Why was this temple taken away?
3. Look to John 21:5-6. About what tragedy was Jesus prophesying? See below. . .

This is the third temple. Solomon built the first temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. When the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylonia, they built the second temple—a remarkable work of faith but inferior to the original temple. Herod tore down that temple in 20 B.C. to make room for his temple—the one that the disciples admire here.

Herod’s temple, already under construction for forty-six years (John 2:20), will not be completed until 63 A.D, but is nonetheless magnificent. It is sited on a prominence in Jerusalem, which itself is sited on a mountain. Josephus tells us that the facade is a hundred cubits (150 feet —45 meters) wide and high—as high as a fifteen-story building.

4. Look up Is. 53:1-3. The temple in Jerusalem looked magnificent; Jesus did not. What meaningful observations can you make about that contrast?
5. See 1 Cor. 3:9-17. Who, now, is the “temple?” How did that happen? Why did that happen? What can the temple do now that it was powerless to do before?

We pray: Lord God, now that you have made us - those with faith in you - your magnificent temple, move us by your Holy Spirit to resemble the One who is our foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord, so that in the beauty of our faith and obedience, the world might know that you are One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.