

Psalm 127: You're Not the Hero

❖ INTRO:

- Hey I'm Dustin, and I'm the Student Pastor here at the Brier Creek Campus. I'm so pumped that I get to be with you and open up God's word with you today.
- Before we dive in to our passage together, I want to take a few minutes to introduce myself to you.
 - I'm married to an AWESOME gal named Sarah. I overachieved, as matter of fact in interview process execs were like 50/50 on me, they met her and were in.
 - I'm the opposite of a bandwagon fan, want proof: I root for Arkansas Razorbacks. Did you notice how no one cheered. Story of my life
 - I once got in a fight with a kid who said that Jeff Gordon was better than Dale Earnhardt Sr. Clearly Righteous Anger
- Either be wearing the cape the whole time or at this point put it on.
 - Some of you have been sitting there wondering why is this guy wearing a cape? Valid question.
 - I look ridiculous right? I mean it's kind of adorable when it's a 6 year old, and adult pastor is kind of pathetic right?
 - My wife, my mother and most of you right now are thinking "take that cape off"
 - Why? Because I'm clearly not a hero.
- Today we are going to be in Psalm 127
 - As you are turning there let me tell you a few things
 - It's also a song of ascent sung on the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It has individual and corporate implications.
 - This is a wisdom Psalm, no commands.
 - ◆ Shows us the end of things so that we know how to live in the present.

- Though it has no commands, the author is going to shout to us just like you wanted to shout at me :

◆ "You're not the Hero"

- Read Psalm 127: 1-5

- 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;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- 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^[a] 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.^[b]

The first area that Solomon shows us that we aren't the hero in is our preservation.

❖ You're Not the Hero in your Preservation

- EXPL:
 - Read v.1
 - Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays alert in vain."
 - Solomon here as the author gives two comparative statements:
 - He states that unless the Lord builds. They build in vain

- Unless the Lord watches they watch in vain.
- These two statements largely deal with the idea of preservation or protection. In olden days, a house here could have been meant as family or the literal structure that offered protection. The watcher clearly points to watching.
- In describing these actions, Solomon declares something to be vain or pointless.
- It's important to know what is meant by this.
- Solomon is not saying that our work is vain, our that we can simply let the Lord build.
 - Proverbs 10:4 "Slack hand leads to porverty"
 - Proverbs 26:15 "the sluggard wears himself out eating"
 - Proverbs 12:24 "The diligent rule the slothful"
- So he is clearly not condemning work, I believe what he is addressing is that no matter how hard our efforts we can't produce lasting protection or preservation apart from the Lord.

➤ **ILL:**

- Building a snow man (picture of snow man)
 - I remember being inspired by the Claymation classic Frosty the snowman.
 - Doesn't matter what Hat I put on his head.
 - Doesn't matter if I go to bed late watching him, or if I wake up.
 - Unless the Sun stays away, he won't last.

- **ARG:** This is what Solomon is stating here, that in your working and watching the one who ultimately is protecting your house is God. You are not the Hero in your preservation. You are not the one holding together. As a matter of fact unless God is, you can't

- **APPL:** Remember a wisdom Psalm shows us the end of something to show what we should do in the present.
- In light of us seeing that we aren't the hero in our preservation, let's look at where are we living as though we are?
 - What are the areas of your life that you feel the most stress or anxiety in currently? *My stress is almost always an indicator of where I haven't surrendered.*
 - For some of you Parents in the room Last week our pastor gave a charge to us that was convicting. Our friends are our future selves. That charge should beg us to ask the question where are my students being influenced. Are my kids in community in church or are my kid's visitors? That is true, but I believe that there are some of our students are being protected from the mission that God has called them to. This community we have the gift of being in is far better than anything we could imagine, but we are meant to be an outward facing community advancing His kingdom.
 - For others some of you in here have found worth in holding your family together. *These gifts that God has given you, you are now choking rather than cherishing.*
 - In all of these areas, we need to take the cape off. We aren't the hero.

- ❖ **TRANS:** God through Solomon calls to us that we aren't the hero in our preservation, but there's a second are in which he reminds us.

❖ **You're not the Hero in Your Provision**

- **Expl:**
- Read v.2

- It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives His beloved sleep.
 - Solomon once again calls something vain or pointless. Rising up early and going to bed late.
 - As a teenager I would have loved to have had this verse memorized.
 - But Solomon is not condemning early risers or night owls. I believe especially in light of the next few verses Solomon is calling out self-reliance in our provision.
 - My wife and I are expecting, my first temptation was to think can I squeeze a side job in early or late. **Our reaction towards need often is not trust it's toil**
 - Solomon continues this thread, when he says that in doing this we eat the bread of anxious toil. Even though God gives His beloved sleep.
 - We work, we watch but in doing this things we must trust not toil. We must understand our role.
- **ILL:**
- Basketball... The awkward kid who is trying too hard. We scream don't force it.
 - Then I think of the effect Jordan had on his teammates. Others played better because of the freedom that playing alongside MJ allows. They knew their role.
 - We have Jesus!!!! We have been provided for, the task we couldn't He did. We are on the winning team! Live like it!
 - **You will only experience true rest when you embrace your true role.**
- **ARG:** A question remains what do we do when it looks like God isn't providing. Specifically in light of the context of the end of this passage in the family.

- *This passage tells us children are a heritage. They are a gift from God. Children are literally to be viewed as a gift from God. There's a bigger way to take this and that's the direction I want us to leave here with today, but before we do that we have to address some things here.*
- *God's word is good, God's word is true. So in verse five when it says that you are blessed if your quiver is filled with arrows..then by God's grace you are blessed! Let me clear, in Jesus, you are still blessed if you only have one or two arrows. In Jesus, you are still blessed if you have no arrows in your quiver at all.*
- *This section of this psalm has probably been the hardest for me to wrestle with. I have friends who have had miscarriages. I have friends who are going through infertility. It breaks my heart and if I'm honest, it makes me angry that I have been praying and praying and praying alongside them and many of you and it seems as if God doesn't hear me.*
- *As I was wrestling with this, however, the Holy Spirit in His goodness reminded me and I want to remind you that real satisfaction can never come from having a child, but from being a child.*
- *To know and find rest in the fact that you are a child of God is of greater worth than being a parent. How can I say that?*
- **Isaiah 54:1 (ESV) — 1 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the Lord.**
- *This passage teaches us that because of the work of God through his servant king, the Lord Jesus, there will be a*

time of joy and singing, even for the barren woman, for God will raise up a great family with many descendants, of which the childless person can be a part.

- *Not only that, in Mark 10, Jesus lets his disciples know of the new family of brothers and sisters and children that the believer gains in this life, and especially in the next.*
- *Throughout the Bible, we are reminded that the future glories that are ours as children of God are far greater than anything this life has to offer and far outweigh the sufferings we must endure for a little while in this life.*
- *While there are times of suffering, be reminded of Hebrews 4:15, we have a great high priest who sympathizes with us in our sufferings. **We don't have a cruel withholding tyrant, we have a compassionate High Priest.***
- *We need to be reminded that though we often say if you don't have a family at least you have the church, as though it were a back up option. Jesus and the Bible argues the opposite. Blood may be thicker than Water but the Spirit is thicker than both. In the words of our Pastor JD. **"In heaven we won't be married, no one will call me Dad but everyone will call me brother."***

➤ **APPL:**

- *A wisdom Psalm shows us the end of something to show what we should do in the present.*
- *So from seeing this tension how should we respond?*
 - ***What are the areas in your life that you are toiling rather than trusting?***
 - *Where are the areas that you need to take off the cape?*

❖ **Concl:**

- *Solomon shows how apart from the Lord how fragile life can be.*
- *Solomon ends his psalm with an interesting line: **The blessed man "will not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."** The gate is the area of town where they would settle judicial disputes. And Solomon is saying, "I know that because I've got a lot of sons, when it comes down to it, I'll have allies to help me out. I'll be acquitted and my enemies won't win."*
- *Can we have that same confidence? Most of us know what it's like to have enemies. But I doubt we have the same confidence Solomon did. We look ahead to the difficulties of life—the inability to have kids, the loss of a loved one, or some other tragedy—and we just aren't sure. The very idea that there are still "enemies in the gate" waiting for us is enough to crush us.*
- *But we can have that confidence. Not like Solomon—not by having such a big family that we know we'll be protected. You see, we follow a God who did something Solomon never did. He let his enemies overcome him. When Jesus faced the cross, he told his disciples that he could have called 12 legions of angels to save him. He knew he had allies that would save him from his enemies in the gate. But instead of using that power to save himself, he let the arrow piece him. Instead of using his hands to fire arrows at the enemy, he let the enemy put nails in his hands. He was put to shame in the public place, so that you and I could be raised to honor. He was crushed by his enemies, so that you and I could face our enemies and know that they no longer have any power. You see, the only way you'll have the confidence to face your "enemies in the gate" is not by filling your quiver, but by following the God who emptied his quiver and was crushed for you.*
- *Take off your cape, Batman vs fake Batman story.*

➤ Pray