
The Tear Down (This Time It's Going To Be Better)

Rebuilding The Work

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Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: The Tear Down (This Time It's Going To Be Better)

Lesson Text

Jeremiah 25:8–9 (KJV)⁸ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, ⁹ Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Philippians 3:13–14 (KJV)¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (KJV)⁸ Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

Introduction

As part of our “Rebuild, Revive, and Restore” Vision for the New Year, ...

Ecclesiastes teaches us that 2 of the 28 seasons of life include a time to break or tear down, and a time to rebuild or build up. Today as part of the Rebuild series, let's look at why things are torn down.

During my last Growth Group discussion we talked about whether God punishes us for sin in the modern dispensation or if he gives us grace and mercy.

But the purpose of this message is not to have a theological debate on that subject, but to deal with why the season of things being torn down is necessary regardless of which side of the discussion you come down on.

... (Images of cities after they have been rebuilt)

Sometimes we tear things down because they have become so damaged and corrupted that it would be better to just start over than to try to fix or repair.

Other times we tear things down because they are no longer useful. It was good in its season, but times have changed, and they have become old and outdated for what we need today.

Then there are times we tear things down because what we have is not big enough to handle what we have coming.

And finally, we tear things down because they cause us to get stuck, stuck in mediocrity, stuck in complacency, stuck in “just enough” or “good enough.”

But better is the end of a thing than the beginning of it, so in order to get to the better, some things in our lives have to be torn down.

Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: The Tear Down (This Time It's Going To Be Better)

“Tear It Down Because of the Corruption, Because of the Past, and Because of the End”

I. Tear It Down Because of the Corruption

Jeremiah 25:⁸ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, ⁹ Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Sometimes there is just too much damage and corruption, and things just have to be torn down.

Some damage and corruption you can't just slap a coat of paint over it, you can't just prop it up anymore, you can't keep faking it until you make it. You just have to let God tear it down.

Psalms 51:⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

There's just too much generational corruption in my nature; and too many things have happened too.

Proverbs 14:³⁴ Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

James 1:¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

It's been too much damage, too much pain, too much corruption, too much brokenness, too much generational curses, too much nature, too much nurture!

We must tear it down! Why? Because this time it's going to be better!

Psalms 51:⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Tear down the corruption because this time it's going to be better. Tear down the broken heart because this time it's going to be better. Tear down my iniquities, tear down by sin, tear down by broken heart because this time it's going to be better.

II. Tear It Down Because of the Past

Philippians 3:¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Other times things must be torn down, not because of corruption, damage, or sin; but because their season is up. Their season is up because of time (too old), or because of size (too small)!

John 9: ⁴**I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

In other words, the work that God has called us to do must be done in its season, and when that season is up, we must move on to the next.

“The opportunity of a lifetime can only be seized during the lifetime of the opportunity!”

People will deify time and culture as if the only way to do a thing is the way we used to do a thing in the past. Others deify a place or location from their past, as if that's the only place where God works.

But some things from the past have expired. And some places from the past are too small!

We must tear it down! Why? Because this time it's going to be better!

Philippians 3:13–14 (NLT)¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

We have to tear down the past because we're in a new season!

Galatians 6: 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We have to tear down the past because it's not big enough to handle our new season!

Isaiah 54: 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

Whatever we succeeded at in the past, tear it down, because this time it's going to be better.

III. Tear It Down Because of the End

Ecclesiastes 7: ⁸ Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

- We must tear it down because of the corruption, because there is too much damage.
- We must tear it down because of the past, because my past is not indicative of my future.
- We must tear it down because of the end, because my better is at the end.

A lot of people never make it to their better, because they give up before their end.

They start well at the beginning, but they get stuck in the middle, and never make it to the end. Stuck in mediocrity, stuck in complacency, stuck in “good enough!”

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Galatians 5: 7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

We have too many things hindering us and keeping us from our end!

Hebrews 12: 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Too many weights, too many people, too many frustrations, too many disappointments, too many broken hearts, too many sins, too many temptations are keeping us stuck in the middle.

We must tear it down! Why? Because this time it's going to be better!

Hebrews 12: 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Psalms 18: 29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Jeremiah 29: ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Tear Down (This Time It's Going To Be Better))

Lesson Text

- Ezra 1:1–3, Jeremiah 29:10–11

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Tear It Down Because of the Corruption*

II. *Tear It Down Because of the Past*

III. *Tear It Down Because of the End*

Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. If you could give one piece of advice to your younger self, what would it be?
2. What's your favorite thing to do when you wake up?

II. Into the Bible

1. What does Paul say is the one thing that he does, (Philippians 3:13)? In your own words describe what that means. Should Paul's one thing be our one thing?
2. A theme of Ecclesiastes is vanity. How does vanity keep one from tearing down what needs to be torn down AND how can vanity keep one from rebuilding once the "thing" has been torn down?

III. Life Application

1. Based on the scriptures used in the sermon, what would you say to someone who is in the midst of a tear down to encourage them to hold on through the rebuilding?
2. Write and share your own statement of faith that you can tell yourself when you next face a tear down in your life. Remember to use scripture as the basis for your faith statement.