

Missing Pieces vs. Building Blocks Acts 2:22-47

Do we have any Lego fans here this morning? They truly are for all ages!

Seemingly small & insignificant blocks, when put together just right, can build some pretty amazing things! **But they don't build themselves!**

Several things need to be in place to build a Lego masterpiece:

- A master designer
- The right pieces
- The instruction manual
- A willing builder
- A commitment of time & energy

It's only when all these things are in place, that good things/results happen!

But if you take any of these out of the equation, your preferred outcome will not be reached! My son is a good example of this!

Building the Church is a lot like building w/ Legos! The stakes being much higher!

It's in the book of Acts that this masterpiece in the making (the Church) is revealed & it shares the same requirements for building as a Lego masterpiece does!

- **There needs to be a master designer – Jesus! Matthew 16:18**
- The right pieces need to be in place - the Apostles, Matthias, the 7, Stephen, Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Priscilla, Aquila, Apollos, followers of the Way! These are the many pieces that were needed for the build!
- **The instruction manual must be present - the Apostles teachings!**
- **There needs to be a willing & able builder - the Holy Spirit! Acts 1:8**
- Time & energy are essential! - Acts is an appropriate book name!

This 44th book of the Bible reveals the building of the Church (the acts of the Apostles & the Holy Spirit working through them). **And we can see that in this building process, it is the sum of the parts, that makes up the whole!**

The hope is that as we read this book, we will see that what God has done in the past, He can also do today! That this master build, called the Church, can be something amazing in our day as well! The building process hasn't changed, the only question is, **"Do we want to be a missing piece or a building block?"**

Every build starts with a solid foundation! **The gospel is our foundation!** What Peter preached on day one, that yielded 3,000 converts, is the same message we have been entrusted with to proclaim today! Glorious Day Song

The master designer has chosen to build His masterpiece, the Church, upon the proclamation of His own life, death, resurrection, & return!

The right pieces also need to be accessible & ready for a successful build today! **The Holy Spirit is still building, we are to be the pieces in His hands!**

The master designer has also provided us with an instruction manual that reveals how the builder will do the work, utilizing all the pieces! - **Acts 2:42-47**

The instructions include:

- **Being devoted to the Apostles' teachings & to the fellowship!**
- Breaking bread together & practicing hospitality in their homes!
- **Praying together!**
- Providing for the needs of those who are in need!
- Attending worship together in the temple!
- **Giving thanks and practicing generosity!**

"Many wonders and signs followed!" "They enjoyed favor with all people!" "And God added to their number day by day those who were being saved!"

It didn't mean that life was easy, but God was at work building His masterpiece!

It all started 2000 years ago with a tragedy - the killing of the Son of God (& the deaths of the Apostles followed), but through it new life & revival took place!

21 years ago another kind of tragedy took place in our country, 9/11, but thru that tragedy a national revival resulted as well! God is always rebuilding!

Today we live in the midst of troubled times as well, but life, revival, eternity, **all these things are outcomes of God's work of rebuilding what has been destroyed**

If we, the Church today, would engage with Him in the building process that He envisioned for His people long ago, the outcome would be far more rewarding than just having a toy to display on our shelf – **Lives would be forever changed!**

If a book was written about the "acts of BRC", what would it include? Would your/my name be included as important building blocks in God's master build?

Missing Pieces vs. Building Blocks The Book of Acts

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- The right _____
- The _____
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