

God has built a house for you ... His Son!

I'll bet there've been times in your life where someone has turned some act of kindness that you intended to do around on you.

For example, you go out with another couple or some friends for a nice time, and you intend to pay the admission price at the movie theater or the McWane center or the Vulcan museum ... for them too.

And just as you get ready to pay, they buy the tickets for you!

You were going to do the kindness ... but they do it to you!

This happens quite often at the end of a meal in a Restaurant where two or more people reach for the check at the same time. Hopefully these situations are resolved quickly and peacefully by one person allowing the other to pay for them.

You may have wanted to do the kindness ... but another does it to you!

We hear of a situation such as this in our First Reading when mighty King David gets the idea of building a nice house for God ... to have a worthy place in which to store his word ... the 10 Commandments that God had written on Stone Tablets.

And no sooner does David share this intention with his priest Nathan, that God comes back through Nathan saying ... no ... He would build a house for David!

God asks, "*Should you build me a house to dwell in?*"

And then replies, "*(No ... I) will establish a house for you.*"

Imagine how surprised David had to be ... that God would build a house for him!

You know, I'm sure that David was thinking only of God's house being a physical structure ... when in reality ... God had that ... and much more in mind!

We know that it was David's son, Solomon, who had the privilege of building the original Temple in Jerusalem to be a worthy house of God's written word.

But what we also know is that ... 1000 years after David ... God created the woman, Mary, would become the most worthy *house of God* ... as she agreed to carry Jesus, God's Word made Flesh, in her womb for 9 months!

Luke records Mary's agreement to do this in our Gospel today, where she responds to Angel Gabriel's request, saying: "*May it be done to me according to your word.*"

This same Gospel is proclaimed each year on March 25th ... 9 mos. before Dec. 25 ... when we celebrate Mary conceiving Jesus in her womb by the Holy Spirit.

This Holy Season of Advent corresponds with the last 4 weeks of Mary's pregnancy with Jesus! You Mothers can certainly relate to that time.

**How exciting this had to be for Mary ...
How extraordinary this would be for the world!**

**What was God doing?
God was building the house that He promised David!**

And the house He was building would be from the lineage of David.

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, spoke of saying:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
Born of the house of his servant David.*

**This House God was building ... was not a structure ... but a Divine Man ...
a Human Person ... who was fully God and fully Man ...
who would soon become the new Temple ...
the new place where everyone would come to give praise to God.**

**No longer would men go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship God ...
Soon they would go to the Temple, Jesus, to worship God in Spirit and in Truth.**

**How special it is to see how God revealed Himself to us ...
even before we were able to appropriate the fullness of His words.**

**In our First Reading from 2nd Samuel, God says,
“I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.”**

**That's exactly who God would raise up as heir to David's throne ...
a son ... God's very own Son ... the only Begotten Son of God!**

David had no way to understand that God was Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit.

But what God said was true ... then and now.

And it was in the fullness of time that God chose to reveal Himself as Trinity.

**St. Paul speaks of this in our Second Reading from Romans, saying,
“Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages ...
but ... (now) made known to all nations.”**

When Jesus came ... as a baby who grew into a man ...

He clearly revealed to us that He is God ...

and that He is mysteriously and eternally united with ...

the God the Father ... in union with God the Holy Spirit.

So God built an everlasting house for us in sending us His divine Son Jesus.

God indicated this would indeed happen when he said to King David,

"I will raise up your heir after you ... and I will make his kingdom firm.

Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;

your throne shall stand firm forever."

What throne do you know of that endures forever?

Was it the throne of David? No! Was it the throne of Solomon? No!

There's only one throne that endures forever ... the throne of the Son of God!

As Paul said today in our Second Reading from Romans,

"To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen."

By God's design, there came to be a new man, whose yes would counteract the no of Adam. That **new man** was Jesus.

And by God's design, there came to be a new woman, whose yes would counteract the no of Eve. That **new woman** was Mary.

As a good Jewish girl, Mary knew the promise that God had made to King David.

So the words of Angel Gabriel had to fill her with great joy

to know that the time for the coming of the Savior was so near.

Notice how Gabriel referred to God's past promise to David when he said to Mary,

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son ... and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary's answer to God's invitation was yes!

And she conceived the Son of God by the Holy Spirit.

Mary said "yes" to God. And look at what her yes did!

God built three new houses ... Jesus ... Mary ... and the Church!

As we enter this last short week of preparation for the Great Day of Christmas,

let's contemplate how God turned the kindness of David around on him!

**Instead of David building a house for God ...
God built a house for David ... and for all of us!**

And **the house** was His only begotten Son, Jesus ...
The New and Eternal Temple!

Let's recognize how much we are loved by God ...
that He would provide us a Holy House, the Church, here on earth ...
to sustain us until we enter an eternal house, the Trinity, in Heaven.