

# Don't Lose Heart

God Is **Building** a House

Ephesians 2:19-22 MSG

**God is building a home.** He's using **us all**—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now **He's using you**, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Acts 7:49 NIV

...**What kind of house** will you build for me? says the Lord.

**Luke 10:25-37 NLT**

## **The Most Important Commandment**

<sup>25</sup> One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> The man answered, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup> “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

<sup>29</sup> The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

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## **Parable of the Good Samaritan**

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

<sup>31</sup> “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. <sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

<sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

<sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Luke 10:29 NLT

“And **who is** my neighbor?”

We are surrounded by **hurting people**.

**Physically** hurting

**Emotionally** hurting

**Spiritually** hurting

The **Thief** has a purpose.

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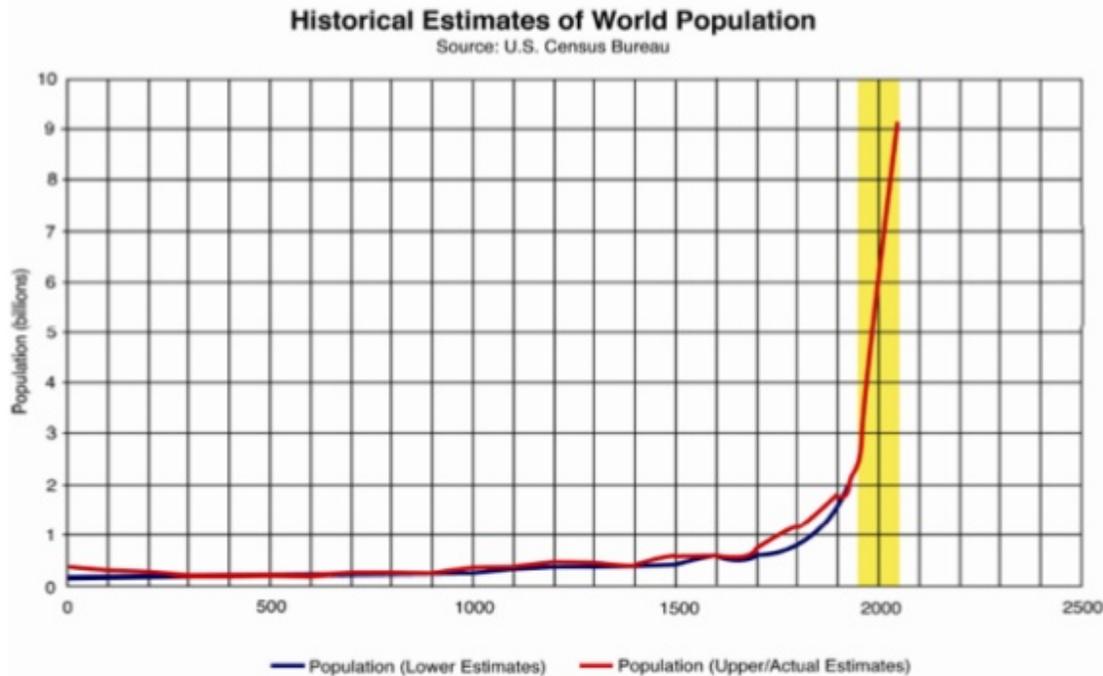
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John 10:10 NLT

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

There must be a HOUSE OF HOPE available.

The data used to make this graph is from the U.S. Census Bureau's Historical Estimates of World Population and Total Midyear Population for the World: 1950-2050.



Luke 10:2 NLT

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. **So pray** to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; **ask him** to send more workers into his fields.”

HOUSES OF HOPE are built by people with open hearts and open hands.

Open hearts that care about people they haven't met yet.

Open hands that sacrifice for people who can't pay you back.

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