

## Seeds of Hope, Stories for Lent #13 - Housebuilding

Today's story seed concerns an elderly carpenter who was ready to retire. He informed his employer contractor of his plans to leave the housebuilding business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, enjoying his extended family.

He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. He knew they could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter reluctantly agreed to do it.

But in time, it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and using inferior building materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, the employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front door key to the carpenter, saying, "This is your house. It is my gift to you!"

The carpenter was shocked. What a shame! If only he had known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

And so it is with us. We build our lives one day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building.

Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the very house we have built. If we could do it over again, we might do it much differently. But we can never go back.

You are the carpenter of your life. Without knowing it, each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall.

Someone once said, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Your attitude and choices you make today, build the house you live in tomorrow.

Build wisely on the proper foundation. So you may live in the House of the Lord forever.

Amen? Amen!

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### ***Reflection***

- 1. What have you "constructed" into your life that should be "remodeled?"***
- 2. What additions could you bring into your life that would add value to it?***

*"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24*