This Gate is the Lord's

Thursday, December 4, 2014
St John Damascene, priest

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

Gates. Cities. Houses. When a powerful ruler wants to be remembered "forever" he builds something. Long after we've forgotten how to pronounce "Cheops" we stare up at his pyramid. Greece has the Parthenon, India has the Taj Mahal, France has the Eiffel Tower, and Cambodia has Angkor Wat. The race is now on for the tallest skyscraper on earth. All of which, we realize, are in jeopardy from weather, earthquakes, fanatical airplane pilots, and time.

Gates, cities, houses. Are these readings about building a society? We wonder, as our country enacts laws to guarantee a lengthening list of personal rights—to privacy, gun ownership, self-defense, same-sex marriage—if what we are building will last…or ought to last. Are we "a nation that just, one that keeps faith"?

Gates, cities, houses. What we should be building, in all our human endeavors, is the Kingdom of God. Safe on the Rock that is Jesus Christ we should be constructing our personal lives, our homes, our workplaces, our cities, and our world.

Reflection:

Do I pray over my decisions?
Do I "put my trust in princes" or do I take refuge in the Lord?
Before I start a new task, express my opinions, or vote, do I consider Christian values?

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Isaiah 26:1-6 Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Matthew 7:21, 24-27