

The Builder

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the pay cheques, but he needed to retire. They would get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked him if he would build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but as things progressed it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work and that he would rather be elsewhere. He cut corners with shoddy workmanship and used whatever materials he had available rather than waiting and ordering things that would have worked better in the end. 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. 'This is your house,' he said, 'My gift to you.'

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

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into things. Then with a shock we realise we have to live in the house we have built. We can never go back, but think - If you could send a message to yourself ten years ago what would you say?

Can you think of all the ways you could have done more with the time and relationships you had then?

But could that advice be something still worth hearing today?

You are a carpenter. Each day you hammer nails, erect walls and build windows. 'Life is a do-it-yourself project,' someone has said. Your attitudes and the choices you make today, build the 'house' you live in tomorrow.

Build wisely!

Remember...

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody is watching.

And pass this on to someone you like. I did!

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.