

GOD WITH US
Part 3: A King in place of THE KING.
1st and 2nd Samuel

Message 16 – David and the House of God
1Chronicles 22-29

Introduction

David's heart for God came out in many ways, but his greatest display of love for God was his desire to build a glorious house for God. The roots of this desire were found in his early years of building out the city of Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. *Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the Lord had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains" (2Samuel 7:1,2).* At that time, God told David that it was not His desire for David to build Him a house; but that God would build a house (an enduring dynasty) for David. Nevertheless, David retained his passion for God's house. Toward the end of his life, he spent much of his energy making preparations for his son, Solomon, to build a magnificent house for the glory of God.

David's offering at Ornan's threshing floor: 21:26-30

After the 3-day plague following the numbering of his army, David purchased the threshing floor of Ornan and built an altar there.

"David built an altar to the Lord there and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called to the Lord and He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering" (21:26,27).

It was on this spot that David decreed the future house of God should be built.

Then David said, "This is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel" (22:1).

David makes preparations: 22:1-5

David made every effort to prepare for the building of the temple so that Solomon would have success in the project. He had the

wisdom to foresee that the task could be overwhelming for Solomon as a new and young ruler over Israel.

David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it.” So David made ample preparations before his death (22:5).

David was trying to set the next generation up for success. What can you do to set the next generation up for success in their life with God and their work for God? Of course, you can't determine what they will do with their lives; but you can make every effort to prepare the way before them. Ask God what He wants you to do to set up others for future success.

David's charge to Solomon: 22:6-19

David reminded Solomon how much he had wanted to build a house to magnify *God's name* (22:7,8,10,19). Clearly, David wanted to make God's name great in his world. Through the temple project, he wanted the world to receive a clear witness concerning the glory and uniqueness of his God. God wants HIS glory to shine through our lives. *“I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images” (Isaiah 42:8).*

The field on which Oak Pointe Church sits was named “Gloria Deus Field” (God is glory) long ago by the woman who owned it. She believed that a Spirit-filled church would someday be built on her field, from which the glory of God would shine out to the surrounding communities. Her dream became a reality. In what ways are you seeking to allow the glory of God to shine forth from your life and your work? If you ask God for the opportunity to display His glory to your world, He will give you opportunities to do so. Just make sure that you keep the focus on HIS glory, not your own, because He “will not give His glory to another.”

God had not allowed David to build the temple because he was a man of war. Solomon, on the other hand, was a man of peace (the name “Solomon” is based on the Hebrew word “shalom,” or peace). Thus, God had called Solomon to build the temple. David charged Solomon *and* Israel's leaders to set their hearts on the work of building the house of God.

“Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God;

arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the holy vessels of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the Lord” (22:19).

Our hearts are usually “set on” some purpose, pursuit or project. David asked Israel to make a choice to set their hearts and souls on the work of God in their day – building His temple. What is your heart set on these days? What is occupying most of your heart and soul energy? Is there something the Lord has been calling you to set your heart on? Is there something that will bring glory to the name of the Lord that He has been asking you to do?

Organizing the kingdom: 1Chronicles 23-27

A grand vision is one thing. A strategy and an organization to fulfill the vision is another thing. Before his death, David did the hard work of organizing the kingdom of Israel so that Solomon’s rule would be efficient and effective.

- 24,000 Levites to oversee ministry at the temple of the Lord.
- 6,000 Levites to serve as officers and judges.
- 4,000 gatekeepers.
- 4,000 worship leaders!
- 288 specially trained singers and songwriters.
- A trusted group of men to guard the treasury.
- 4,400 men to oversee affairs in lands west of the Jordan.
- 24,000 men *per month* to serve all the kings affairs.
- Princes for each of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Directors of various departments: Of storage houses, agricultural workers, vineyard workers, wine cellars, olive and sycamore trees, olive oil storehouses, cattle in Sharon, cattle in the valleys, camels, donkeys, flocks.
- Jonathan, Jehoida, Abiathar and Hushai as counselors to the king.
- Jehiel to serve as tutor to the king’s sons.
- Joab as commander of the army.

David’s charge to Solomon and Israel: 28:1-10

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act” (28:9,10).

The Lord searches our hearts and understands all our inner motives. He knows when we are serving Him with all of our heart and mind, and when there are other loves that are standing in the way of our devotion to Him.

If God were to describe the condition of your heart right now, what would He say? You can ask God, as David did, to reveal the condition of your heart. "Search me O God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way" (Psalm 139:23,24). Spend some quiet moments before the Lord listening for His voice. Ask Him what needs to change so that you can "serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind."

David gives Solomon the plans for the temple: 28:11-21

God gave the exact architectural plans for the temple to David.

"All this," said David, "the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern" (28:19).

This is one of the clearest descriptions of how the process of "inspiration" must have worked for all the biblical writers who were inspired by God's Spirit to write the words of God (though David was, in this case, drawing plans instead of writing words).

Are you asking God for HIS plans for your life? "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5,6). If we sincerely ASK God for His plans, He will begin to unfold them, one page at a time.

David's delight in giving \$ to the project: 29:1-9

David spoke of the *delight* he had in giving generously to the temple project. Moreover, he challenged other leaders to follow his example and to give generously.

"In my delight in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already provided for the holy temple, namely, 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the buildings; of gold for the things of gold and of silver for the things of silver, that is, for all the work done by the craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?" (29:3-5).

The leaders responded to David's example and gave massive gifts to the temple project.

“Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly” (29:9).

God loves it when we give to Him with a whole heart. “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2Cor. 9:7). In fact, God is much more interested in the heart that lies behind each gift than in the size of the gift. Sometimes the smallest gifts are given with the greatest love and sacrifice (see Luke 21:1-4).

David's prayer over the offering: 29:10-20

David's final prayer is worth meditating on in full. It is a model of praise and thanksgiving.

- He praises God for His character as ruler over ALL.

“Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name” (29:10-13).

David remembered WHO was really KING in his life, and in the life of the world. ALL power and sovereignty belong to God. ALL riches and honor come from Him. If we have anything at all in life that seems worthy of praise, we must recognize that it has ALL come from GOD.

- He thanks God for the privilege of giving.

“But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours” (29:14-16).

How many times do you hear a person thanking God for the privilege of giving???. David realized that even *the ability to give generously* was a gift from God, for *everything that we have (own)* is actually granted to us by the God *Who owns it all*.

David realized something very important about earthly treasures: We are managers, not owners. We are managing someone else's wealth and resources. The real "owner" is God, not me. If I have time, talent and treasure to give back to God, it is because He has first granted me the right (privilege) to manage these resources on His behalf. When we come to the place where we realize we are managers, not owners, then the question of giving changes. It is no longer: How much shall I give? Rather, it is: How much shall I keep for myself.

- He dedicates the offering to the Lord.

"Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You. O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision" (29:17-19).

He ends by committing the people, the gifts and the future work to the Lord. He ties this great moment in history back to the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel), the fathers of the nation, who first received the promises from God. To those fathers, God had first announced His intention to raise up one nation from whom *His glory could shine out to all nations*. Now, this glorious house of the Lord was to become the centerpiece from which God's glorious name and presence would shine out to a watching world. How fitting that David's final efforts were centered on bringing the glory of the GREAT KING to the whole world. David was more concerned with God's great name living on, not his own great name.