

1 Chronicles 28-29

You've heard me say it before, God will bury His workers but His work will continue on. His work isn't limited to my life; as if to say that God has the years allotted to my life to get done what He's got planned because once I'm gone the work can't carry on. Often times we may feel that way, "Well what would happen to ____ if I weren't here to oversee it, or tend to it?" and We think that the whole thing would just go down the tubes if it weren't for us, but believe me when I say that if there's truth to that, if the area you serve would take an irrecoverable nose dive if it weren't for you than it would be best to abandon that ship now. Because if it's predicated upon *you* doing it, or *me* doing it than that's a pretty good indicator that God's *not* doing it, because the work that *God* begins, *God* finishes. Now if He uses my life along the way that's an awesome blessing and an incredible bonus for *me*, but His work won't come to an end when I do. He was working in this world long before I got here and should the Lord tarry He'll continue that work long after I'm gone. Here in 1st Chronicles Ch's 28-29 we come to the conclusion of David's life, but the plans, preparations and purposes of God for the nation of Israel as it pertains to the building of the temple will continue on.

Now in Ch's 23-27 you recall we got a glimpse into David's administration, the organization of his kingdom, and the dividing up of the various duties of the priests and the other Levites who would assist them. God directing David through the prophets to set things in order the way that they needed to be now that they were at rest in the land and no longer wondering around in the wilderness. Things were going to change as it pertained to some of the general aspects of their duties. and They were open to it and receiving of it; sometimes things change in and or around the ministry in which we serve. and We need to be careful to be open to the Lord in that, it's real easy to get stuck in the, "We've always done it this way," frame of heart and mind and we view change as an onslaught from the enemy, rocking the boat. But God is always on the move, working in ways that are relevant to the current situation. and We want to be poised in such a way as to be open to it and willing to receive it rather than seeking to resist it. The Levites received the instructions and the transition was made in a non-hostile, non-abrasive way and things just flowed into this new phase to the glory of God. and Whenever God wants to do a new, or fresh work in our midst that's the mindset and attitude that we want to have, non-hostile, non-abrasive, simply flowing into a new phase of ministry to the glory of God.

Now if you remember right we read in the 1st 2 Vs of Ch 23 how that when David was old and full of days, that he made Solomon his son king over Israel and he called together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. and Then we had that giant "parenthetical" (if you will) portion of scripture that explained to us how David divided up his administration, the priestly duties and all of that. Here in Ch 28 it reconnects now to that flow of thought after having explained the details of the new administration. So we read that David called them together, divvied up their duties and now we return to the assembly in order to hear David's final address to the nation, so we read.

Vs1

So this is a huge assembly of the most distinguished and highly important people in Israel, the representatives of the entire nation, and it's in this setting that David is going to publicly pass the torch of kingship to his son Solomon. Now you can read in the 1st 2 Ch's 1st Kings where David's son Adonijah tried to take the throne after the death of David even still.

In that attempted overthrow Joab and Abiathar the priest sought to aid him, Adonijah and Joab were executed and Abiathar was exiled. It just seems that any time God is doing a work the enemy has to do something to try and upset it or get in the way of it, but ultimately God's will, will be done. and The leaders knew whom God had chosen and the one whom David ratified, and verified to be the next king, it was to be Solomon and so Solomon ascended to the throne.

Vs2-3

Now what's happening here is that David is rehearsing publicly the things he's already shared with Solomon privately. That's why as we're reading through this you're thinking, "Man, this sounds familiar." Because David had already told Solomon back in Ch 22 of these things that were in his heart and how God had told him that it wasn't going to be him who would build the temple because he was a man of war. and It wasn't that war was wrong, God ordained and led David into many of the battles he fought, the life of the believer is riddled with warfare. But God wanted His name to be identified not with warfare, bloodshed, stress, devastation and destruction, but rather peace and rest. Of course one of the titles ascribed to Jesus in God's word is the, "Prince of peace." Remember Jesus said, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matt 11:28 He's our perpetual Sabbath, it's in Him that we cease from the labor of our own works and rest in His finished work upon the cross. and Since in the volume of the book it's written of Him, it points to Him, speaks about Him, God wanted His temple to be identified with peace and rest, not warfare and bloodshed. God told David that his son Solomon (whose very name means peace) would have rest while he reigned in Israel, and he was the one whom God would use to build the temple.

Vs4

God made David a promise. David wanted to build God a house, God politely declined. But God told David that He would build *him* a house and that he would have One of his lineage who would rule and reign upon his throne forever (speaking of course of the promise of the Messiah that would come through him). Now this is the 3rd time in this book that this promise is referenced and each time the author goes on the site in some way how David responded to the promise of God and the commitment that God had made to him.

I think therein lies a lesson for you and me in that the promises of God's word to you and to me ought to inspire our actions. How do you respond to the word of God for your life? David took it in, allowed it to shape him, mold him, make of him who he was; it stirred him to act in specific ways. and So to with you, so to with me when we're reading God's Word, spending time in meditation, contemplation of it, it should be stirring in us in such a way as to mold who we are, it should be changing our lives, we should be responding in practical ways to the principles and promises of God's Word toward our lives.

Vs5

Couple of brief things here; #1 The way this reads it almost lends itself to the fact that Solomon wouldn't have been David's choice, but he was God's. and I can't verify that for you biblically but we never really read where David had his heart on Solomon, yet Solomon is the one whom God selected to succeed him. But often times that's the way God works; He doesn't choose whom man would often times choose. David would be able to recognize and realize that 1st hand, that's the way it worked with him. Remember the Lord sent Samuel out to Jesse's house and told him (Samuel) that from his (Jesse's) sons God would raise up the next king over Israel. So having consecrated his sons Jesse brought Eliab before Samuel and Samuel thought with in himself, "This guy is the *one*, just look at him!"

We read where the Lord said to Samuel, "*Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*" 1 Sam 16:7 and So one by one Jesse had 7 of his sons pass before Samuel and each one the Lord rejected as king. Finally they were all finished and Samuel said, "Is this is, don't you have any more sons?" and Jesse said, "Well I've got one more, my youngest, but he's just out in the field tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Go get him." and As you know in walked David; and the Lord said to Samuel, "Arise and anoint him, for this is the one." Now he wouldn't have been Jesse's pick, or any of the other brother's pick, or for that matter Samuel's pick, but he was God's choice because God was looking into his heart. God is always searching our heart; we so often look to the circumstance, God looks to the heart. Solomon may not have been David's choice (perhaps he was I don't know) but he was God's.

Now that should encourage you, because you've been chosen by God as well (we'll see that again in a minute). I don't know about you but I was never really any good at sports, I was always the guy chosen last by default because I was still standing there, wasn't exactly man's choice. But I'm so glad that God has chosen me.

2^{ndly} notice that David refers to the kingdom and the throne as the Lord's. He says that God has chosen Solomon to sit, "...on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord." Any and every true leader of God's people will recognize and realize that the reality is that it's not *their* kingdom, it's the Lord's. David realized that he was simply a steward of the things that pertained to *God's* kingdom, not his own, and Solomon was about to be entrusted with that position.

This is a huge deal for Israel, there had never been a hereditary monarch up to this point, Saul reigned, but he wasn't succeeded by any of his sons. Then David was given the throne, and now David's son is selected by the Lord to inherit the throne.

Vs6-8

Notice the emphasis placed upon the seeking, searching out, and obedience to God's Word. Solomon is exhorted personally in Vs 7 and the entire nation is exhorted collectively in Vs 8. The idea here is obviously that God honors and blesses obedience (from the heart) to His word. We see that #1 We're to "be careful," or to understand that another way, "observe it, keep watch over it, safeguard the attention you give to God's Word." #2 "Seek out," that is search the Word, study the Word; make it your practice to obey the principles of the Word. and #3 Notice the reference is to, "...all the commandments of the Lord your God." In other words, "The whole counsel," don't just hover around in your favorite areas but avoid the areas that don't particularly peak your interest, or that perhaps convict you more strongly than others. Don't avoid areas you don't understand, study it, look into it, take in all of it. So safeguard your time spent in the Word, search it out with a heart to obey the Word, and make sure you take in *all* of the Word.

Vs9

What rich reminders and much needed exhortation consists in this Vs. 1st of all note the exhortation, David tells Solomon, "...know the God of your father." He doesn't say, "Know the God of Israel, or the Creator of all things, he's calling attention to the personal aspects of a relationship with God. "Know the God of your father." David's desire for his children was that they would come to know the Lord like he knew the Lord, that they would step in stride with the master passion of his life. and I think as dad's (and mom's) we do well to be reminded of that, is this something that you want for your children? Think about it, do you long for your child to follow your path, what's the master passion of your life? Not the Sunday or Wednesday routine, but the master passion; is it the Lord, knowing Him, walking with Him?

Or does something else dictate the desire of your heart? Would you be comfortable encouraging your children to follow in your footsteps? That's what David is doing here. and There's another key tucked away in here and we've mentioned it before but the order here is critical, before he mentions serving the Lord he tells Solomon that he needs to *know* the Lord. If you know the Lord, serving Him becomes a delight, if you don't it's a drag, if you know Him it's a blessing, if you don't it's a burden, 1st you need to know Him. Then (notice) serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind. Not a divided heart and an unwilling mind, give God the fullness of your heart, and don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your *mind*. We're to serve the Lord with all our heart, with all our mind and all our strength, with everything that we are.

Why? We mentioned it a minute ago and now we're seeing it here, "For the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts." What's this saying? That God is way more interested in inward consecration, inward transformation, than a simple outward manifestation of good works; the Pharisees had that down but God despised what those guys stood for because the position of their heart wasn't holy, wasn't loyal to the Lord, but rather it was self seeking, and looking for the praise of man.

God is interested in the position of your heart, and some people serve ½ heartedly; you know we give to God our leftovers. If we have time after everything else we'll give it to God, God's given us the talent to bless His body, but we choose to ignore that, or only give in a convenient way that's befitting to our schedule, we could do so much more and so much better but our heart isn't really whole, or loyal toward the Lord, not fully. We can serve God cold-heartedly. Again drawing near to Him with our mouths, honoring Him with our lips while our hearts are far from Him, and along with that we can serve Him from a hypocritical heart; seeking to really only draw attention to ourselves in the name of what we do for the Lord. We give, but not because we really love God, but we want the recognition of man. God doesn't desire a divided heart, a disinterested heart, or a deceitful heart (that is towards man because God *knows* our heart) but rather He desires that we serve Him from a *devoted* heart, that is a loyal heart and a willing mind.

"and If you seek Him He'll be found by you," that's a promise. James said it like this, "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*" James 4:8 But if you forsake Him, you walk out on Him, He'll cast you off forever, translation; God honors your ability to choose. You can walk with Him, or away from Him, either way He'll honor your resolve. Of course Solomon experienced both of these things to a degree, he began well, but then he forsook the Lord and the Lord stripped the kingdom from him. He came to a place where his heart was divided, and the division of the kingdom followed. Don't think your decisions don't effect anyone but you, all kinds of people way in the balance of the way you and I choose to lead our lives before the Lord.

Vs10

You see here it is. The Lord chose Solomon; He had a plan, a purpose for his life. and What did Jesus say? "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,*" John 15:16 The Lord picked you to be on His team, and not because there was no one else left, but because He loves you, has a plan *for* you, that you should build His house. Remember Peter said that, "*you..., as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*" 1 Peter 2:5 We spoke on Sunday morning last week about being members individually that make up the body of Christ collectively. God has a plan for you to build His house His kingdom. Now; be strong, and do it. The exhortation to follow through on why God grabbed hold of you, how was Solomon to build?

How did he know what to do? Because his father gave him the plans, the procedures, all he had to do was follow them. Your heavenly Father has given you the plans, the procedures as to how He wants to do what He wants to do in and through you by His word, all you have to do, all I have to do is follow them.

Vs11-18

God dwelling between the Cherubim, the psalms portraying the Cherubim as the chariot of God, that He rides upon them, flying on the wings of the wind and all (Ps 18:10)

Vs19

Notice that it's the Lord who gives understanding, who gives wisdom. David acknowledges that the Lord has made him to understand how all this was to operate, and how he was to facilitate the various aspects of organizing the building of the temple. and We also note as couple this Vs with Vs 12 that the plans for the temple were inspired by God the same as were the plans of the tabernacle. There's quite a few parallels as you look this portion of scripture over with the way Moses passed the torch on to Joshua and the way that their dreams were fulfilled in their predecessors. But David's point here is to exhort Solomon to stick to the plan. God has been leading, He's the One who's given us the play book, don't deviate from it. Same goes for me and you, we're not to deviate from the plan that God has given us in His word, stick to it, it's God breathed, God inspired, His will for our lives.

Vs20

In the NT Paul put that like this, "...*being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*" Phil 1:6 If God begins a work, He's going to finish it. and He'll keep you and be with you until He's finished with you. Then God will call you home, but as long as you're breathing God still has a plan to fulfill in your life, be true to Him in it.

Vs21

"When I quit breathing, you start building."

Ch 29

Vs1-2

Again these Vs are great reminders for you and me, everything we do as unto the Lord we should seek to do with all of our might. Why? Because what we do we don't do for man, but for the Lord God, and that mindset should form and fashion our labor as unto the Lord. No matter what it is or how small a task it may seem to be in *our* eyes, it's a great work because we're doing it for the Lord God, not for man.

Vs3

What did Jesus say? “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” Matt 6:21 and I love this about David, why is he giving to the Lord over and above the tithe? Why is he dipping into his own personal resources to give to the Lord? Because his affection has been set on the house of his God, it’s indicative of where his heart is. I believe it was D.L. Moody who said something to the effect of he could tell more about a man’s heart toward the Lord by reviewing his pocketbook than he could by reviewing his prayer book. and There’s probably a lot of truth in that, where our treasure is speaks of where our heart is. and It’s not wrong to have nice things, and to enjoy the things God has blessed man with the ability to build and make or whatever. But how critical it is to safeguard our hearts, lest the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word from our hearts causing us to become unfruitful in our walk with the Lord. You and I will gladly give, excitedly support the area that owns our heart, David’s affection was on the house of the Lord, therefore over and above everything he worked to prepare for the temple he gave of his own personal resources, a freewill offering.

Vs4-5

Again this is reminiscent of the offering Moses received when he built the tabernacle. Neither of them commanding an offering, but both of them giving an opportunity to give for those who were willing, and that’s the only way that God wants us to give to Him. David modeled the spirit of willingness, then he opened up the opportunity for anyone else who shared the same heart. God doesn’t desire that we give begrudgingly or by guilt, but rather just out of that overflow of love, cheerfully, God loves a cheerful giver. and If you can’t give joyfully, just don’t give at all, wait till you can. Now I’m not referencing the tithe, because that’s not yours, it’s not mine, that’s the Lord’s. When we don’t tithe we steal from God, that’s what the bible teaches. God demands our tithe, but He desires our offerings. But if you can’t make an offering from your personal resources willingly from the heart, then don’t. When you can give joyously to the Lord, go for it, God will honor it; and notice that when we give of ourselves this way it’s an act of consecration to the Lord. David says in Vs 5, “Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?” By nature we’re selfish, stingy, don’t like to give, but as we give to the Lord we’re giving to him little by little our selfish tendencies and we’re becoming more and more like Him. Being consecrated and separated unto Him, a selfless and giving/gracious God.

Vs6-9

I want you guys to see this, when David extended the opportunity to get behind what the Lord was doing, who were the 1st one’s who rose to the occasion, willfully, joyfully? It was the leadership, if you claim to be a leader and you’re not a giver, if finances hang you up in the sense that you’re not behind the work of the Lord, giving to the Lord the *bear minimum* of what is His own in the form the tithe, then you’re only kidding yourself and would do well to re-evaluate where you’re at. I’d encourage you to take a break from leadership till you come to that place that you can trust the Lord when it comes to money, it’s a mark of maturity.

David showed himself as the example, but the leaders were eager to get in on what God was doing, if that's not your heart I'm not here to throw stones, but ask God to help you in that area, to teach you to trust Him when it comes to money matters, and He'll do it. Willingly and with a loyal heart the people gave, and notice the people rejoiced. It's the, "It's more blessed to give than to receive," principle. Do you really believe that? The people gave willingly, and they rejoiced, and king David also greatly rejoiced.

Vs10-11

It seems that perhaps Jesus had this portion of scripture in mind as He taught His disciples to pray. Remember when they said, "Lord teach us to pray." and He said, "When you pray say, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Your name..." and He went on to say, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done," and "Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever." David here is acknowledging that fact, "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty, Yours is the kingdom and You are exalted as head over all."

Vs12

David had all these things, honor, riches, power and might and strength and he's saying here, "Lord I realize that it's all the result of Your hand, Your favor upon my life. Because these things reside in You."

Vs13-14

What do we have but that we haven't 1st received it from the Lord. It's all God's, He's the Creator of all things, what can we give Him that's not already His? David is just worshipping the Lord here in humility.

Vs15

Life is but a vapor, and wise is the woman, wise is the man who invests his/her time and resources in things that are eternal in nature. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

Vs16-19

Oh how we need to intercede for our kids, that God would give them a loyal heart to keep His commandments, and His testimonies, and His statutes, David was standing in the gap for his son.

Vs20

Notice that in their blessing the Lord they demonstrated their hearts practically, not just in sentimental feelings, they got on their faces before God, humbling themselves before Him, desiring to be a blessing to Him.

Vs21-22

The 1st time they went about anointing him quickly so the people would know David's heart specifically, but now they're going about it formally. But I want you to note their gladness in assembling before the Lord. If there's no sense of gladness, no joy in your heart when you come to church, or enter into fellowship before the Lord with other believers (and I realize sometimes things are going on, we can't always be happy) but as a general rule if you don't look forward to time spent before the Lord with the fellowship of believers. You might consider either finding a new fellowship, or renewing your relationship with the Lord because one or the other is out of order. I love hanging out with the body of Christ, in fellowship before the Lord, and if you don't you might ask God to search your heart on that, renew you, refresh you, give you that sense of zeal and joy for the assembling of ourselves together before Him, they ate and drank before the Lord with *great* gladness. God is in to the pot luck.

Vs23-30

Now either we don't have the books of Gad, and the record of Nathan, or there are those who believe that perhaps 1st Sam Ch 25- 2nd Sam 24 compile that record. Either way we have the record God wants us to have. and So David goes down in the Chronicles of Israel as the best king they've ever known until the Son of David, the greater than David Jesus Christ will one day rule and reign in his place.

Prayer Points:

Lord we look forward to that day, when You rule and reign upon the earth. We realize that there will be no true peace in this world until You, the Prince of peace are ruling over it, come quickly Lord Jesus. Meanwhile may we serve You with a loyal heart and a willing mind, help us to look to You and trust *in* You with all that we are. and God we want to take a moment to just pray for our children, that they might know You, and serve You, seeking after You with all that *they* are, honoring You, and being obedient to the principles and precepts of Your word. Help *us* to be careful to observe Your Word, to study it thoroughly, and completely, the whole counsel. Thank You for loving us and giving Yourself for us.