

Seize the Opportunity – 1 Chron 28-29:22

Turn to **1 Chron 28-29**

If you were with us last week, or anywhere close to the QC's these past days, you are well aware that we have found a place of our own, agreeing to purchase the Ultimate Electronics building at 53rd and I-74, as our new church home

As I look back, it's amazing to see how God has orchestrated this and lined it up for us

Over a year ago, I happened to notice a tiny little blurb in the business section of the newspaper, regarding the falling stock price of UE

Speculation that they were in financial difficulty; Wondered about bankruptcy

Wasn't too long after that the store closing signs started popping up

Desperate for a contact, I walked in and ask the manager who owned the building who I could call – he didn't have a clue

Referred me to their corporate headquarters – spent several weeks trying to talk to somebody there; they weren't much help

Next thing you know, a for lease sign pops up

Inquired as to buying it – \$10 million; Okay, that's realistic and wrote it off

Month or two went by, and they got back to us and said how about 5.1 m?

That was last fall, and started a whirlwind of discussions as elders, and comparisons with other places and situations

Finally coming to the conclusion that by any measure, no matter how you looked it, this was an *extraordinary* opportunity that we had to seize; we couldn't pass it up

EO's nothing new – God has been presenting his people with EO's for 1000's of years
And his people have been seizing them with the necessary urgency/passion as quickly as they come

This morning, look at 1 example of that in days of King David – And how people seized it
Our opportunity, right here, right now, is no different

It's an EO that requires an extraordinary response; And it starts with faith . . .

Extraordinary opportunities require extraordinary faith (28:1-7, 11-19)

After getting everyone together (1), David says – Hey, I wanted to build this temple, but God said no way; It's not for you to do; It's not my timing

For David, that required extraordinary faith . . .

• Faith in God's *timing* (2-3)

Even if God had said – “Yep, this is your time; And did I mention you need to get it done in 3 months? – That too would have required ext faith in God's timing

Whatever the circumstances, EO's require ext faith in God's timing

• Faith in God's *leaders* (4-6)

Read 4-6 – David says, even though I'm not the one to build the temple, that doesn't diminish the fact that God chose me to lead

Don't stop following me now

God's not forsaking me just because my timing doesn't match his timing

I'm not blind to the fact that this opp requires ext faith/trust in me, elders, deacons, staff

As I said last week – I couldn't be more pleased with the men and women God has raised up to lead, shepherd, teach here at Harvest

All of them are humble, mature, capable people passionate for Christ

Every single one of them is fit to lead, and that's good because EO's require ext faith in God's leaders

• Faith in God's *promises* (7, 20b)

7 – God promises to establish his kingdom through the line of David, forever

That's why gospel writers took such great pains to establish Christ from line of David

20 – David promises that God will never leave or forsake Solomon

A promise God makes to his people all through Scripture – fr Josh 1:5 to Heb 13:5

EO's require ext faith in God's promises

Like the one Jesus made in Mt 16:18 – *I will build my church*

We can trust that promise

We can trust the fact that as the fullness of Christ here on earth (Eph 1:22-23), God will take care of his church – He's not going to forsake us

• Faith in God's *plan* (11-19)

V11-12 – etc, etc

This was based on the plan God gave Moses 450 years earlier for the tabernacle

As you read through these verses, you begin to realize that the plan is –

Detailed, extensive, costly, and risky (it would temporarily deplete the treasury)

Our plan is no different

It's risky, it's costly, it's extensive, it's detailed

Having sought God's direction/wisdom – we have counted that cost; measured the risk

We've come up with a plan that we feel best fits our church, our need, our timing, and our ability to support it financially

Some details of that plan include building the church out in 2 Phases

Tentatively, it will look something like this – **Drawing**

Phase 1 – 1200 seat auditorium, Children's classrooms, Youth rooms, couple of adult classrooms, and temporary offices – in 39k sq ft

Phase 2 (2-3 years) – build out remaining 13k sq ft presently occupied by LaJames

Includes permanent offices, resource center, and a full kitchen among other things

Tentatively (still waiting for final drawings fr arch), look something like this – **Drawing**

EO's require ext faith in God's plan, promises, leaders, timing

Extraordinary opportunities require extraordinary commitment (28:8-10)

Observe and seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God (8) – that's a commitment to righteousness; EO's require an ext . . .

• Commitment to *righteousness* (8)

29:19a – says same thing in David's prayer (read it)

Without a commitment to righteousness, buildings and opp's are a moot point

Not only that, but they can quickly distract us from our main purpose – to glorify God and make disciples by spreading the word

And if we're not careful, we can start to place our identity and worth in a building as opposed to being a child of God and part of his family

• Commitment to seek *God* (9)

Know the God of your father – seek him, find him, know him

29:18 – David prays that God would direct the hearts of people toward himself (God)

In the face of this EO, we need to commit as the apostle Paul did when he said –

I have suffered the loss of all things . . . that I may know [Christ] and the power of his resurrection (Phil 3:10)

In midst of this EO, must never waver in commitment/desire to seek/know him more

- Commitment to *serve* God (9)
Serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind – hold nothing back
 Make a commitment to be full in, not just dipping your feet into the proverbial water
 But diving in all the way
 I have a picture on the wall in my office – **Commitment photo** (It has a basketball . . .)
 And you can't fool God with a half-hearted showing, because he –
Searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought (28:9)

This not only applies to serving God with your hands, but with your money as well
 If your heart's not in this EO, you just as well not give at all
 I don't want your money, and God certainly doesn't need it
 He wants your heart, and I want you to give it to him (completely)
 EO's require an ext commitment to serve God with your whole heart

- Commitment to *obey* God (10b,20a)
Be strong and courageous and do it – period
Don't be afraid or dismayed [troubled or discouraged] (20a)
 We need to be strong and courageous and Seize the Opportunity
 When you put our need for more capacity together with that building at that location –
 You get an EO where the possibilities for ministry are staggering; We *need* to do it

3 years ago a traffic flow study was done at that corner
 Determined that the number of cars passing that building every single day was 51k
 We're going to go from an underground church to a light on a hill 24/7
 Want to know what God is going to do with that?
 The same thing he's doing now, just more of it
 More lives are going to be changed for eternity; Christ is going to be exalted *more*; And
 more believers are going to be built up in their faith
 But none of it comes without ext commitment

Extraordinary opportunities require extraordinary **sacrifice** (29:1-8)

A giving up of something personally valuable and needed, for something more important
 Missions trip to Mexico – building houses (sheds) for those who didn't have much
 They would come to the worksite and feed us food they couldn't spare
 Because of that, most would struggle to put food on their *own* table for a few days
 Didn't matter, because the privilege of showing us hospitality was far more important
 that the sacrifice they made to do it
 That's the kind of sacrifice that EO's require
 Giving to the point that it changes your future plans – defer retirement; nix the new car
 Giving to the point of trusting God to provide for the deficit
 And it starts with the leaders

- EO's require ext sacrifice *from leaders* (1-5)
 Vs 1-5 – imply not only that David gave sacrificially from the nation's treasury
 But more importantly, that he gave sacrificially of his own wealth – read v3
 He led by example, and at today's price, gave \$2b worth of gold
 Frame of reference – it was 4 ½ times the amount that Solomon collected in one year
 for the nation as a whole
 David and the other leaders (6) gave sacrificially, and set the example for rest of people
 because of their devotion to the house of the Lord

As a LT consisting of elders, deacons, and staff – we've done the same
 Total cost for the building is 4.7m; Need 1.3m to close and begin the build out of Phase 1
 Currently, we have 150k in the Building Fund from last year's overage
 In addition to that, 50k has been given in the last few months
 On top of that – elders, deacons, and staff have already committed another 350k
 That means that we have 550k already given or committed toward the 1.3m
 Leaving 750k to raise – over and above our regular giving – between now and April 30th
 And that's going to require the same kind of sacrifice from *everyone*

- EO's require ext sacrifice from *everyone* (6-8)
 After David says here's what I'm giving, he asks . . .
 V5 – *Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?*
 Who's going to join me? Who's going to devote themselves to this purpose?
 Look at the response in v6-8 (read)
Everyone stepped up and gave sacrificially just as David and the other leaders had done
 EO's require 100% participation – then *and* now
 Don't sit back and wait to see if it's going to happen – it won't
 Get your questions answered and your concerns addressed; and then get on board
 If necessary, let this be the catalyst to push you over the edge and totally plug in to what
 God is doing here at Harvest

While it's going to require sacrifice from everyone, I'm not talking about everybody
 giving the same amount
 That would be impossible for some, and the furthest thing from sacrificial for others
 The point is not equal giving, but equal *sacrifice*
 For those of you who can't give a massive amount – give sacrificially of what you can
 For those of you who *can* give a large amount – do; give sacrificially
 EO's require ext sacrifice from everyone, top to bottom

Extraordinary opportunities lead to extraordinary **joy** (29:9-22)

Joy is not automatic; If there's little faith, little commitment, and little sacrifice –
 There will be little joy – for you, and for our church
 But with much faith, commitment, and sacrifice – there will be much joy

EO's lead to ext joy because of . . .

- Our *ability* to give (14,16)
 14 – Who are we that we should even be *able* to offer these gifts?
 They all come from God's hand (16); we're just giving back to him what he's given us
 And glad for the ability to do so; There's ext joy in the ability to give
- The *way* we give (9,17b)
 9 – *the people rejoiced* – Why? Because they gave freely and willingly and with a whole
 heart – they were full-in
 17b – *I have seen your people offering freely and joyously to you*
 EO's lead to ext joy in the *way* we give
- The *privilege* of giving (14-15)
 Who are we that we should have this privilege? All this money is yours anyway
 Out of all the people on earth you could have chosen anyone for this, but you chose us

Out of all the people in the QC's he could have tapped, he chose you and your family for such a time as this; Don't minimize that
David goes on in v15 saying – God, we're not even going to be around for long, our generation, but you still chose *us* to seize the opportunity
EO's lead to ext joy because we have the *privilege* of giving

- God shows himself *great* in our giving (10-13, 20-22)
Because of the extraordinary giving of the people, David tells them to worship the Lord – *Bless the Lord your God* (20) – and they did
20-21 – *they paid homage to the Lord* (worshipped him) with great humility (*bowed heads*), fanfare (*sacrifices in abundance*), and joy (*great gladness*)

10-13 – David expresses some of the most God-exalting language in all the Bible
It's something I'd like to read together, in faith, that God *will* show himself great in our giving, just as he's shown himself great in our church thus far
Let's stand to do this; Read this aloud, together – **1 Chron 29:10-13**
We have a great God, and I firmly believe that this EO will lead to ext joy because God shows himself *great* in our giving

Summary

Some would say we're crazy to think we can do this – to raise so much money in so short amount of time; I say – we'd be crazy not to
With such an extraordinary opportunity facing us, we'd be crazy not to seize it

There may be some overwhelming times in the next days/weeks – 750k in 2 months
You may have thoughts like . . .
How are we ever going to do this? Is my gift going to make any difference?
What if we don't make it?

Encourage you to take it to the Lord in prayer
“God, increase my faith; God help us; We want to make a huge impact for you

Remember – This is God's work and he's with us
The work of his hands are all over this church, and all over this opportunity
He promises to give us everything we need at all times so that we can abound in every good work, including this one (2 Cor 9:8)

This is an EO that requires an extraordinary response
As a church, we have the money – where God leads he provides
The question is – Are we going to give it back to him for his purposes and glory?

28:20 – *Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God . . . is with [us]. He will not leave [us] or forsake [us], until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.*
Let's Seize the Opportunity

Pray – quiet time
Ask God what he would have you give (participate) to Seize the Opportunity
Nathan to start singing at appropriate time – Great is Our God