

Giving God's Way – Sacrificially (1 Chron 29:1-9)

1 Chron 29

We've been talking about *Giving God's Way* the past few weeks, with the first couple of messages focusing on tithing – i.e. giving regularly and humbly and obediently
And then, last week we talked about giving generously and joyfully and faithfully

And I want to commend you for your response

The number of you giving in the last 4 weeks has risen dramatically – as much as 30% from previous levels

As has the amount given, which you can see in your bulletin

Which speaks volumes about the softness of your heart, and your desire to be a faithful follower

So let me encourage you to keep on; Don't make this a flash in the pan

Keep giving God's way, and we'll keep doing more/more for Christ and his kingdom

- That said, the *last* message in this series is giving sacrificially
Which once again, is particularly appropriate for our situation, as we face the need for a build-out in the near future
It's going to require sacrifice – the 3rd and final aspect of giving God's way

And I think the best way to put it all together is this . . .

Giving God's way *always* requires our tithes, *often* requires our generosity, and *sometimes* requires our sacrifice (1 Chron 29:1-9)

Sacrifice as in – giving up something that's valued, for the sake of something that's greater; something *more* valuable

Giving God's way sometimes requires that

- Like it did when King David collected money to build the temple (1 Chron 29:1-5a)
And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. 2 So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony [a type of metal], colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. 3 Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 4 3,000 talents of gold [a talent was about 75 lbs], of the gold of Ophir [the best of the best], and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, 5a and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver.

3000 talents of gold and 7000 talents of silver is almost \$5B at today's prices – and that was just from *his* treasury

And given the verbiage of v3, it seems as though he gave it *all* – *I have treasury of my own . . . and I give it to the house of my God*

The implication being that he temporarily depleted his resources

Why? B/c that's what was needed – needed for the building project, and needed to encourage the people to do the same

- Which is why he asks in v5b – *Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?*

IOW who's going to join me? Who's going to devote themselves to this purpose?

And the answer is everyone – *everyone* stepped up and gave sacrificially (6-9)

6 *Then the leaders of fathers' houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. 7 They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold [a coin], 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron. 8 And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.*

Everyone gave, and everyone gave *sacrificially*; The result of which is that . . .

The people rejoiced [v9] because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

That's what we have to look forward to with *our* build-out – great rejoicing

But not without the sacrifice; Not w/out giving freely

And not w/out *everyone* involved, just like in David's day

Sometimes giving God's way requires sacrifice, and for us, this is definitely one of them

[Sometimes giving God's way requires sacrifice]

But sacrifice requires courage and devotion

Sacrificial giving requires courage and devotion (1 Chron 28:20; 29:3)

Courage to step out and make it happen

Courage to attempt the improbable, and maybe even the impossible

Courage to do things that most people don't, b/c they're afraid to fail or afraid of the cost – especially the personal cost

Sacrificial giving always requires courage

The very thing David exhorted Solomon to have in building the temple (28:20)

Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed [distressed, discouraged, troubled], for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.

Accomplishing great things for God, has always required great courage on the part of his people – always has, always will

And you don't have to look very far in the Bible to see it in . . .

- People like Noah, who with great courage built the ark, even though people thought he was crazy
And Moses, who confronted the most powerful man on earth – great courage
And Joshua, who crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land that was filled with enemies – with great courage
And Nehemiah, who against all odds, rebuilt the city of Jerusalem from scratch
And Jonah who told the wicked Ninevites of all people, to repent

People like Peter, who declared the gospel at Pentecost on the steps of the *temple* of all places, the heart of Judaism

And Paul, who had the courage to boldly go where others hadn't, in order to do the same

And the early church who had the courage to face terrible persecution while living that gospel

And more recently, people like Martin Luther, who had the courage to stand up for biblical truth, and started the Reformation b/c of it
Or William Tyndale, who printed the first English translation of the Bible in 1526, against the wishes of the powers that be, and was burned at the stake for it
Or how about the Puritans who had the courage to leave their home in England, to find religious freedom here

And then there are people like William Wilberforce who fought tirelessly to end slavery in England
And the likes of Abraham Lincoln, and Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass who did the same here
And Martin Luther King Jr. who had the courage to lobby for civil rights a century later
And countless other men and women of God over the centuries, who had the courage to meet the challenges of *their* day

- It takes great courage to accomplish great things for God
A Spirit-led, Spirit-enabled conviction, borne out of faith that where he leads, he will provide

And we're no different; We're no different when it comes to building our *church*
It's going to take courage, on the part of all of us, to accomplish it
Courage to give sacrificially

- And second, it's going to take *devotion*; Sacrificial giving also requires devotion
In v3b David says – *I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God.*
Devotion is the reason he gives, for giving so sacrificially

Which is no surprise, b/c nobody gives sacrificially to something they aren't totally sold out to
You might give a little; Or even generously
But you'll never give sacrificially if you're not fully devoted to the cause
In this case, the cause of Christ and his kingdom right here in our church

- Sacrificial giving to our capital campaign over the next 3 years, is going to require devotion to our church, and devotion to our ministries, and devotion to our direction
If you're not devoted, if you're not fired up about those things – you'll never give sacrificially to further them

Which is why, if you have questions or concerns – now is the time to get them answered and addressed
That's why we've scheduled the Q&A sessions in the next few weeks
And that's why we're in the process of scheduling the same thing with all the SG's over the next 4 months
So that you can give with a whole heart; B/c . . .

Now more than ever we need to sacrifice

The build-out is going to cost \$5.5M (**Cost = \$5.5M**)

That's a lot of money; Requiring much sacrifice, from everyone

And it will consist of **3 Phases**

A **Worship Center Expansion** next spring . . .

Then the **North Side Build-Out** spring of 2012; And once that's completed . . .

The **South End Renovation** spring of 2013

3 Phases, to be completed over the course of 3 years

- And when it's all said and done, it will look like this (**Layout**)
This is a top-down view, with the WC here, the North side here, and the South end here

The **Worship Center Expansion** will add about 350 seats – 240 in the tiered section, and 110 on the floor . . .

With some additional audio/visual equipment needed to accommodate them

Then, the **North Side Build-Out** will add about 30K sq. ft. of *new* construction
Including 2 stories of meeting rooms in the front, 2 stories of office space in the back, and a gym and kitchen in between
Right now that area is pretty much unusable, and we're eager to make something of it

And finally, the **South End Renovation** will create new classrooms and meeting rooms for our CM and SM, as well as a bookstore and additional restrooms

- And to pay for it, we've broken the giving down into **4 Gifts**, spread out over 3 years
Starting next month with a **Thanksgiving Gift** of \$250K
And then a **Generous Gift** of \$1M next spring
Then a **Sacrificial Gift** of \$3.5M March of 2012
And a **Completion Gift** of \$750K March of 2013
For a total of \$5.5M over the next 2 ½ years

- Which means that now more than ever we need to sacrifice *****
Now, b/c it's going to take 3 years to complete
And *more than ever* b/c if we don't do this, we're going to put an artificial cap on our growth, and our impact

But it's going to require sacrifice
4 years ago, raising \$1.6M to secure a loan and get into this building, was one thing
But raising \$5.5M, the entire cost, is another

Don't get me wrong – it's doable
In fact, the ratio of people to need, is identical
IOW we have 3.5 times more people now, than we did 4 years ago . . .
And we need almost exactly 3.5 times more money
So it's not unrealistic, especially since it's spread out over 3 years
But it *is* a lot of money – and it's going to require a lot of sacrifice

- To encourage you in that, and inform you, we've put together a **Booklet** that will be available at the doors following the worship service
It contains all the information I've just presented, plus a bunch more . . .
And we have enough for 1 per family
So be sure to pick those up and commit this to prayer, will you?

So that when we kick this off the weekend of November 21st with the Thanksgiving Gift,
we'll have the necessary courage and devotion to give sacrificially . . .
And see it through to completion