

The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles

Lesson 11: Officers, Leaders, and David's Charge -- 1 Chronicles 27:1-29:30

Every life comes to a moment when the torch must be handed on. For David, that moment arrives here. The shepherd boy who once stood before a giant is now an old king standing before a nation, and he knows his work is ending. What does a godly leader say when he gathers the people for the last time? He does not boast of his battles or rehearse his accomplishments. He turns their faces toward God and his son toward the work, and he gives one of the most stirring charges in all of Scripture.

Know the God of your father, David says to Solomon, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind. Notice he does not say merely know about God. He says know Him, the relationship, the surrender, the lifelong loyalty of the whole person. And he warns, in the same breath, that the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intention of the thoughts. There is no hiding from this God, no half-hearted service that escapes His notice. He sees all the way down.

Then comes the commission every weary servant of God needs to hear: be strong and of good courage, and do the work. Do not be afraid or dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. The task ahead of Solomon was enormous, and the temptation to shrink back was real. So David hands him not a pep talk but a promise: God will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work is finished. The work is daunting, but the God who calls is faithful.

And then watch what happens with the offering. David gives lavishly from his own treasure, the leaders follow, and the people rejoice because they had given willingly, with a whole heart, to the Lord. The old king lifts his hands in a prayer that has echoed through three thousand years: all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. Here is the secret that sets a stingy heart free. We never give God anything that was not already His. We are not owners writing checks; we are stewards returning gifts. Let that truth do its quiet work in you as we walk through these chapters.

Group Discussion: David charges Solomon to serve God with a whole heart and a willing mind, warning that the Lord searches every heart (1 Chronicles 28:9). What is the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing and serving Him, and how does the truth that God sees all the way into our hearts reshape the way we live?

Personal Reflection: David prayed, 'all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You' (1 Chronicles 29:14). Where in your life are you still living as an owner rather than a steward, and what would change if you truly believed everything you have already belongs to God?

Read 1 Chronicles 27:1-29:30

Study Questions

1. What does David mean when he charges Solomon to know the God of his father and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind (1 Chronicles 28:9), and why is wholehearted devotion the heart of true service to God?
2. Where in your own walk are you serving God with divided loyalties or a reluctant heart, and what would wholehearted, willing service look like for you this week?
3. David tells Solomon that the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9). What does this teach about God's knowledge of us, and what comfort and warning does it carry?
4. Knowing that God sees every motive behind your actions, what hidden attitude or intention do you need to bring honestly before Him?
5. Why does David repeatedly urge Solomon to be strong and do the work, promising that God will be with him and will not fail him until the work is finished (1 Chronicles 28:20)? What does this reveal about how God's people are to face daunting tasks?
6. What God-given work have you shrunk back from out of fear or feeling inadequate, and how does the promise of God's presence change the way you face it?

7. What moves the leaders and the people to give so willingly and joyfully for the house of God (1 Chronicles 29:6–9), and what does their joy reveal about the heart of true generosity?
8. Is your giving to God marked by joy and willingness or by reluctance and obligation? What in your heart needs to change for giving to become a delight?
9. Bring together the great themes of David's charge and prayer: how does serving God with a whole heart relate to the truth that God owns everything and we are merely stewards, so that 'all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You' (1 Chronicles 29:14), and how should this wholehearted, stewardship-shaped devotion mark every part of a Christian's life today?
10. Looking back across David's charge and prayer, name one specific area, time, treasure, talent, or trust, in which Jesus is calling you to surrender more fully as a wholehearted, willing steward of what is already His.

Digging Deeper

Reflect on these passages: Matthew 6:19–24, no one can serve two masters, where your treasure is there your heart will be; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, God loves a cheerful giver who gives as he has purposed in his heart; Joshua 1:6–9, be strong and courageous, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go; 1 Samuel 16:7, the Lord looks on the heart, not on outward appearance; Psalm 24:1, the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the foundation of stewardship

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