

## **Week 18: The Kingdom Loses a Great Leader**

**May 4/5**

### **SERIES: Hidden Qualities of a Godly Leader**

### **Godly Leaders Prepare Others For Success**

#### **Summary and Goal:**

In this second lesson of our 5-week series *Hidden Qualities of a Godly Leader*, we look at the end of King David's life through the lens of the legacy he left behind, as chronicled in 1 Chronicles, 28 & 29. Man looks for leaders based upon outward appearance, but God searches much deeper within our hearts. In this lesson, we will see how King David prepared his son Solomon for success by leading by example, investing his time, talent and treasure in Solomon and the future of the kingdom, while praising God in the present and praying for the future.

#### **Main Passages:**

Select passages from 1 Chronicles Chapters 28 & 29; Chronological Bible May 4 & 5, pp.496-498

#### **Session Outline:**

#### **Godly Leaders prepare others for success by:**

- 1. Leading by Example**
- 2. Investing in Others with their Time, Talent and Treasure**
- 3. Praising God in the Present and Praying for the Future**

#### **Session in a Sentence:**

Godly Leaders invest in the next generation by preparing them for the future.

#### **Kingdom Connection:**

In his final words to his son, King David gave him 3 action items for success: Know God, Serve God, Seek God. These are still important actions for today as we seek to know and serve Him through our mediator, Jesus Christ.

#### **Missional Application:**

The most important mission of our time is to INVEST in the next generation as we were invested in by those who have gone before us. Make time to tell the truths of old, that apply to the present, and can be trusted for the future.

## Godly Leaders Prepare Others for Success

The old adage that you reap what you sow isn't always true. In May of 1914 George H. Hermann, real estate investor and industrialist announced his intention to deed to the city of Houston 285 acres of land as a municipal park. Little did he know then that more than 100 years later the Hermann Park Conservancy still would be serving the Houston community with all that the Hermann Park area has to offer. In 2014 to commemorate Hermann Park's centennial year, Hermann Park Conservancy transformed an eight-acre portion of the land into a spacious central lawn, the Centennial Green, with more than 500 trees of 50 species, 55,000 perennial bulbs, hundreds of azaleas and 4.5 acres of grass all in the center of one of the world's most renowned medical center. George Hermann is not around to reap the benefits of his investment, but his sowing paid off in dividends to our city and multiple generations after him!

In the gardens of Centennial Green, there are statues of many famous people- Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Confucius to name a few. But the favorite point of interest in the gardens is called The Mount. It's a manmade hill with a circle trail that winds around to the top and a cascading waterfall that you walk across multiple times to get to the top. From The Mount, you can see all of the acreage of the Green and much more of the surrounding area. There are stone benches, graduated in length with different parts of a Confucius quote engraved on them that reads:

*If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.*

There is a passage in Judges Chapter 2 which to me is one of the most chilling verses in the entire Bible. Its Judges 2:10 and it says this - <sup>10</sup> *When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.*

**At any point in time, we are one generation away from raising a generation after us who do not know the Lord nor the work which He has done for His people.** That's a scary thought. Way scarier to me than any issues our modern culture is facing. And so, the most important thing any of us can do is to teach the people, the next generation. To INVEST in those coming behind us, as we were invested in by those who have gone before us. To tell the truths of old, that apply to the present and can be trusted for the future.

Some lives are so significant in acts of courage, accomplishments, and accolades that they form the beginning of an era. Others, leave such big shoes to fill when they die that their death marks the end of an era. And then, there's King David. The greatest king Israel ever had; God broke the mold with David. Arguably, his life both begins and ends an era in the history of God's chosen people.

The Apostle Paul summarized this great king's life in the book of Acts centuries later like this, I like the word choice of the NASB:

*For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers... Acts 13:36 (NASB)*

*For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers... Acts 13: 36 (NKJV)*

Oh to be remembered like that! David fulfilled God's intended purpose for his life. Not without mistakes. Not without consequences. Not without trials, pain, death, loneliness or loss. It wasn't perfect nor was it always pretty, but David served God's purpose in his own generation and in doing so prepared others for success. And that set him apart as a Godly Leader and an example, his reign viewed as a grid by which other kings were judged.

In 1 Chronicles 28-29 we find both the record of David's last days and his last recorded words. In examining these passages, we can see how he prepared others for success by leading by example, investing in others, investing in the future with his time, talent and treasure, as well as praising God in the present and praying for the future.

Let's pray and look at our passages for today.

1. Godly Leaders Lead by Example

Last week we saw how David worshipped passionately, loved deeply, and fought with courage. David also failed miserably. But the measure of a man is not the mistakes he makes but the steps he takes to make it right and for that- his steps to make it right- David is known as a man after God's own heart. In all that he did, David led by example, living out the truths he imparted. Let's take a look:

- a. David led by example with his Worship:

First and foremost, David was known as a worshiper and his life dream was to build the temple for the Lord. Yet, recognizing it was not God's plan for David to build it, David fully submitted to God's plan and aligned himself with God's purpose for his life, turning over the building of the temple to his son, Solomon. Look with me at 1 Chronicles Chapter 28:1-7

*<sup>1</sup> Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor.*

*<sup>2</sup> Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build*

*it. <sup>3</sup> But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.’ <sup>4</sup> However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. <sup>5</sup> And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. <sup>6</sup> Now He said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, I will establish his kingdom forever if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.’ (Chronological Bible pg. 496)*

David understood the temple was not his to build. The name “Solomon” is directly related in root form to the Hebrew word “shalom,” which means peace. David was a man of war and bloodshed. The Lord wanted a man with a different temperament and Solomon was His choice. So, David yielded his dream, to prepare the way for Solomon’s success in fulfilling it. David led by example in his Worship by recognizing building the temple was not part of his purpose though it was his dream and desire. He surrendered his will for God’s will.

b. David led by example with his wisdom:

David also led by example with his wisdom. Look with me at 1 Chronicles 28 verse 9-10

*9 As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. <sup>10</sup> Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.” (Chronological Bible pg. 496)*

These are David’s final words to his son; they are intentional and measured, rich with meaning. Perhaps he saw things in Solomon’s life that concerned him, generational patterns he was afraid might be repeated. Quite frankly, I can’t think of any better advice to give the next generation in seeking to prepare them for success. 3 actions with profound results that David had already lived out the last 4 decades of his life:

*Know God*

*Serve God*

*Seek God*

David knew God. Not just about Him, but in a personal way. This one thing is foundational to everything in David’s life. He tells Solomon, “know the God of your father,” because David knew that in the midst of the pressure of being king much could happen, many things could come along to turn Solomon’s heart away from God. He is

telling him to make time, take the time to KNOW, truly know God in a personal way. Do you know Him? How are you modeling that in your life right now?

David served God. David tells Solomon to serve God, not begrudgingly but wholeheartedly and willingly. From beginning to end, David served God with all of His heart. This was what he wanted for Solomon. David knew half-hearted service would not do. This is why KNOWING comes before SERVING. You cannot serve with a whole heart Him whom you do not know. How would you classify your service to the Lord?

David sought God. At this point in his life, David knew that there are only 2 ways to live – in pursuit of God following His commands; or forsaking God which results in rejection. It's a choice, but if we seek Him, He will be found by us. Sadly, we know that in his later years Solomon does turn away from God and is rejected. But that was Solomon's choice as it is for all of us. David prepared Solomon by leading by example in his relationship with God. David loved the Lord and desired to serve Him and he knew for Solomon to live the very best life possible he would need to do the same.

David's last words of wisdom to Solomon are in 1 Chronicles 28:20

*20 And David said to his son, Solomon, Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God-my God- will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.” (Chronological Bible pg. 497)*

The same words the Lord spoke to Joshua – Joshua 1:1-9

The same words Moses spoken over Israel - Deuteronomy 31:1-8; and over Joshua Deuteronomy 30:7-8

The same sentiment spoken by Jesus to the disciples in the Gospels – “Do not be afraid,” “I will be with you.”

The same sentiment the Lord spoke over Paul in Acts 18:9

The same sentiment John heard in Revelation and we can trust to eternity.

Words heard from the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: “Be strong and courageous.” “Do not be afraid.” “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Truth spoken by the LORD, trusted, repeated and lived out by Godly Leaders since the beginning of generations. Godly Leaders lead by example.

## 2. Godly Leaders Invest in Others with their Time, Talent and Treasure

*1 Chronicles 28:11-14*

*<sup>11</sup> Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; <sup>12</sup> and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house*

*of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; <sup>13</sup> also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD. <sup>14</sup> He gave gold by weight for things of gold, for all articles used in every kind of service; also silver for all articles of silver by weight, for all articles used in every kind of service...(Chronological Bible pg. 496-497)*

Even though God said “No” to David’s plan to build a temple, David still sowed, making all of the preparations necessary for the Temple to be built by Solomon. He bought the land; he provided the pattern and then the materials for him to build. He even gave Solomon the servants to assist. David could not reap but oh how he could sow. Sowing into someone else’s life plan is a choice, it’s an investment that you may never see come to fruition this side of eternity. But you still receive the blessing of sowing in the moment, knowing you are contributing to the hereinafter in the here and now. If David had not sowed, Solomon could not have reaped. The Temple could never have been built when it was built without the investment of David.

Next, David gives his own “treasure” opening his own treasury of goods. David puts his money where his mouth is. Read with me,

*1 Chronicles 29:1-5*

*1 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: “My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God. <sup>2</sup> Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance. <sup>3</sup> Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: <sup>4</sup> three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; <sup>5</sup> the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. (Chronological Bible pg. 497)*

David was modeling generosity. As a result, the leaders and the people willingly gave also, and they all rejoiced with great joy. Those who are generous are glad.

### 3. Godly Leaders Praise God in the Present and Pray for the Future

*1 Chronicles 29:10-15*

*10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly, and David said:*

*“Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.*

*<sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,  
The power and the glory,  
The victory and the majesty;  
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;  
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,  
And You are exalted as head over all.  
<sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from You,  
And You reign over all.  
In Your hand is power and might;  
In Your hand it is to make great  
And to give strength to all.*

*<sup>13</sup> “Now therefore, our God,  
We thank You  
And praise Your glorious name.  
<sup>14</sup> But who am I, and who are my people,  
That we should be able to offer so willingly as this?  
For all things come from You,  
And of Your own we have given You.  
<sup>15</sup> For we are aliens and pilgrims before You,  
As were all our fathers;  
Our days on earth are as a shadow,  
And without hope. (Chronological Bible pg. 498)*

David is praising God in the present, recognizing everything he has attained in his life had come from God. When we humbly acknowledge that He is the source of every good thing, we are set free to live wholeheartedly and serve willingly. David thanks the Lord for the privilege of giving back to the Lord that which He had given them.

*<sup>16</sup> “O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand and is all Your own. <sup>17</sup> I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You. <sup>18</sup> O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people and fix their heart toward You. <sup>19</sup> And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision.” (Chronological Bible pg. 498)*

After praising the Lord with thanksgiving, David intercedes, praying for the future. He prays for the Temple yet to be built, he prays for the kingdom and he prays for the King, Solomon his son. David intercedes for the people and Solomon that their hearts would be turned toward God, that they may live in His presence.

David spent most of his years building a kingdom for the nation and building into the men who help him lead that nation. David lived in the wonderful presence of God and invested in the lives of others that they may come to know Him as David was known by Him, as a man after God's own heart.

- *God Speaks* through the lives of past leaders and the examples they left for us.
- *God Acts* by preserving the record of Godly Leaders in His Word.
- *God Reveals* that living in the awareness of His presence, seeking to fulfill His purpose for our lives, and investing in the next generation leaves a far better legacy than accumulating possessions.

**Resources:** *NOTE: Teachers, don't forget to utilize the resources at [second.org/teach](http://second.org/teach) and [chronologicalbibleteaching.com](http://chronologicalbibleteaching.com).*

Chuck Swindoll – Profiles in Character Series -David

Jon Courson's Commentary on the Old Testament