

BUILDING GOD'S WAY

The Temple

1 Chronicles 29:1-17

INTRODUCTION: As a church, we are in the middle of joining God in His work of rebuilding our Worship Center. As such, we are seeking God's instructions, looking at four major building projects in Scripture.

WE MUST SHARE GOD'S VISION.

WE MUST UNDERSTAND GOD'S PROVISION.

WE MUST MAKE OUR DECISION WITH A WILLING HEART.

God's second building project: David and Solomon build the temple.

1 Chronicles 29:1 NKJV 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.

THE WORK IS GREAT, BECAUSE IT IS FOR THE LORD.

The tabernacle was an awesome place of worship, as I shared with you last week, costing more than \$82 million to build.

The temple, which we will talk about today, while modeled after the tabernacle, was more beautiful and glorious by more than a hundred fold. In fact, in today's dollars, the temple cost 683 times as much! More than \$56 billion. Even in congress today, that's real money!

- Timber, mostly cedar, was cut in Lebanon, and transported to the Mediterranean Sea.
- It was lashed together into great rafts and floated down to a port in Israel.
- From there it was hauled overland and eventually up the mountain range of Moriah to be used in the building of the temple.
- Stones were quarried in the mountains and brought to the temple mount in Jerusalem.

- The Bible offers details of more than 180,000 people being used to prepare and transport materials and in the construction of the building itself.

The work was great!

But folks the work was not great just because of the mammoth-sized task or the budget-busting cost. The work was great because it was for the Lord.

In fact, as God gave Moses plans for the tabernacle, God showed David plans as well. As was the tabernacle, the temple was built as a reflection of the Throne Room of God in Heaven, one day to be seen as a part of the New Jerusalem.

The work to rebuild our Worship Center will be great as well. Not because it will glitter with gold nor because the cost will be beyond imagination, but because we are building for the Lord.

We are building, not to just please ourselves with some new look nor to achieve greater comfort. We are building to make our place of worship a place where people of all ages, of all generations will desire to come to worship and to learn more about God and His ways.

It will be a place where the gospel will be preached, the Word of God will be taught, and worship will be offered to our Lord from grateful hearts.

Building this building will be a great task, because we are building for the Lord, to honor Him.

And so, you are wondering two things.

- **What will it cost?**
- **How much money do we need to commit to pay for it?**

I don't know. Yes, you hear me correctly. I don't know.

I want to know. I planned to know the answer to both of those questions by the end of 2021. But I don't know because there are two pieces of information I do not have and have not yet been able to get.

We don't know the cost because COSCO, our design and build company, is still working on that final determination. It is a tough job, and the pandemic has made it harder in multiple ways. They thought they would have that figure for us before Christmas. They were still working on it as of Friday, and I do not know now if we will have it by the end of the month.

The other thing we thought we would certainly know by now that we don't know is the final number of what our insurance is planning to pay for the reconstruction of the Worship Center. Many of you are familiar with this struggle. We had words from our insurance company that gave

us hope we would have word before Thanksgiving. We were confident we would have it be the end of the year. Obviously, we were wrong.

Now to be honest, that frustrates me. I have been called a control freak for good reason. I like to dot the i's and cross the t's. I like to be prepared and do things decently and in order.

However, in evaluating this predicament and talking much with the Lord about it, I have come to two conclusions.

- **God most certainly knows the answer to both questions!**
- **I don't really need to know.**

Moses didn't know. David didn't know. God didn't tell them in advance.

God just led the people to give what He knew would be the right amount, and God worked it out.

So folks, I don't need to know; we don't need to know.

- We will do what the Lord wants us to do, and He will let us know at the right time.
- We trust Him.
- We will have answers before we sign a contract and begin construction.
- But we do not have to know before we make our commitments.

So, what else do we learn from the building of the temple? Let us read on.

1 Chronicles 29:2–5 NKJV 2 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.

3 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: 4 three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; 5 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.

Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"

JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK REQUIRES FULL HANDS. Bro. Mike, where do you get that? And what do you mean?

David had consecrated himself to the task.

He set aside kingdom funds.

He committed personal funds

He gave his "segulah" – his own special treasure. Not the things that were his because he was king. Things that were his personally. Things that were dear to him, may have been in his family for a long time, of great value, but also had sentimental attachment.

David called on the people to join him in consecrating themselves to the Lord.

Meaning of consecrated.

- Literally - To come to the Lord with full hands
- Hands full of what?
 - Whatever they had.
 - The poor did not have much, but they filled their hands with what they had to bring to the Lord.
 - The middle-class so called, did not have what they considered extra, but they filled their hands with what they had, even though it was not just surplus. They consecrated themselves to the Lord.
 - David was, of course, rich. And David took much of his own personal treasure, filled his hands with it to give to the Lord for the building of God's house.
 - And so did the other people of means, people whose lives were comfortable and to whom God had entrusted considerable wealth. They too gave, not just from the extra that they would never miss, but from the core of what they had, they filled their hands to bring an overflowing offering to the Lord with willing hearts.

1 Chronicles 29:6–8 NKJV 6 Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly. 7 They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

JESUS TAUGHT THIS SAME PRINCIPLE

THROUGH THE GIVING OF THE WIDOW.

Luke 21:1–4 NKJV 1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. 3 So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

Estimates of the value of the two mites vary from one-fourth of a cent up to \$1.00. But how tiny her contribution was is not the point. The point Jesus was making was how much it was in comparison to what she had. She gave everything!

She came to the Lord with very full hands!

Jesus taught the same principle in Luke 6 **THROUGH HIS OWN TEACHING ON GIVING.**

Luke 6:38 NKJV Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For **with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**"

Jesus taught that God uses the same size basket to bless us that we use to give to Him.

- Now when He returns the blessing, it is pressed down, shaken together, and running over, but
- He doesn't change the basket size.
- If we used a little basket in our giving,
- He uses a little basket in His returning.
- If we use a large basket in our giving,
- He uses a large basket in His returning.
- **The good news is that we get to pick the basket!** In the next two weeks, by January 30, each one of us will pick our basket. Whether our basket is big or small is not determined by amount. It is determined by proportion.

Do you see that this is the same principle David was practicing and urged his people to practice?

Full hands and big basket mean the same thing.

- If you measure your income in pennies, then fill your hands or your basket with pennies and bring it to the Lord.
 - Folks, listen, when Karen and I were young marrieds in college, both working and going to school full-time, our date night consisted of going to the A&W Root Beer Drive In and splitting a burger. Until we graduated from Seminary, every Christmas gift we gave to family or friends was handmade, because we could not pay for anything else.
 - During those years, we were in the first church we had ever attended while they had a building program. We ourselves were as poor, or poorer, than anyone in the church, but we came to the Lord with full hands. Our hands were full of pennies, but we offered generously from what we had at the time, and God greatly, greatly blessed us in it.
- If you measure your income in ten dollar bills, then fill your hands or your basket with ten dollar bills and bring it to the Lord.
- If you measure your income in hundred dollar bills or thousand dollar bills, then fill your hands or your basket with hundred or thousand dollar bills and bring it to the Lord.

David said, consecrate yourselves to the Lord. Come to the Lord with full hands. Or as Jesus said, come to the Lord with big baskets. You will be blessed beyond measure.

What do we learn from the building of the temple?

THE WORK IS GREAT, BECAUSE IT IS FOR THE LORD.

JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK REQUIRES FULL HANDS.

And third,

JOINING GOD IN HIS GREAT WORK, *WILLINGLY* COMING TO THE LORD WITH FULL HANDS, PRODUCES GREAT JOY.

1 Chronicles 29:9–17 NKJV **9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.**

10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "... 13 "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. 14 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. ...

17 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.**

Have you noticed already how prominent the word “willing” is in God’s instructions to us about joining Him in the work of building?

The most important thing of all is that each of us do our part with a willing heart.

Nothing else will please the Lord.

Nothing else will bring either joy or fruit to your own life but to willingly serve and give to the Lord.

Help us Lord, like David, to set our affection on this work You are doing. Help us catch Your vision and understand Your provision. Let us join You with full hands. Let us come with willing hearts, making our commitment to the Lord.