



SERMON OF THE WEEK

First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu at Ko'olau
October 19, 2014

"How To Leave a Lasting Legacy" - 1 Chronicles 28:1-9
Nick Love

1 **Chronicles 28:1-9** - David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the warriors and all the brave fighting men.

2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. **3** But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

4 "Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the tribe of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.

5 Of all my sons—and the Lord has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. **6** He said to me:

*'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. **7** I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'*

8 "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought.

26 David son of Jesse was king over all Israel. **27** He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. **28** He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king.

Two weeks ago my wife gave birth to our first child, Jude Robert Love (show pic). Birth is an amazing process, it really is, and something I'm so thankful to have been apart of. My wife and Jude are doing great, so

thanks for all your prayers and support. My wife actually made giving birth look easy even though it wasn't. I'm so proud of her, and what's even more impressive to me is how well she is taking care of Jude now. She has these motherly instincts that are so amazing.

As for me, I really don't do anything. I mean I change a diaper here and there, but for the most part I'm useless. While doing nothing but staring at my son and thinking through our passage today, I've been asking myself, "What is Jude going to be like? Is he going to get good grades and go on to college and become a doctor, or is he going to be a really good athlete and play football in the NFL? Maybe both! Or how about this, is Jude going to be a Christ follower?"

Who knows, what he's going to be like. We all want to know what our children—or maybe if you don't have children, your nieces and nephews, or maybe you're a teacher, your students in your classroom—are going to be like.

Thinking through what Jude is going to be like, I came to realize that it doesn't matter if I predict what my son is going to be like. What matters, is if I do everything in my power to help Jude to have a heart after God.

Let me say that one more time, what matters, is that I do everything in my power to help Jude to have a heart after God.

Today, we are going to look at the relationship between King David and his son, Solomon. We are going to see that his will was for his son to have heart for God, because David knew that “having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy.”

With that said let’s jump into our text for this morning. Our text comes from 1 Chronicles today, a book found within the Old Testament.

Let’s set up the text. At the end of David’s life, he calls all the officials, commanders, the ones in charge of property and/or livestock, all the warriors, fighting men, or anyone of importance together to hear what God has revealed to him. David, who is old and weak from war and hardships stands and talks about his heart's desire to thousands of people. Can you imagine this? This is amazing. And in front of all these people, you could probably hear a pin drop. And we read...

2 King David rose to his feet and said: “Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it (Referring to The Temple)

3 BUT God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’

Right away we see David addressing his heart. His heart

was to build the temple where Abraham once lived to honor the one true GOD.

This is good to know because David doesn’t build the Temple. This must have been super difficult to hear. David had the resources, finances, leadership, time, and authority to build the temple that he wanted to build. But instead of doing it, he listened to God. He humbled himself and followed God.

How many of us can relate to this? God’s plans are different than what we draw up in our heads sometimes. David’s plans were different than God’s, but David had a humble heart for what God wanted, and he followed it. And this is the most important part of leaving a legacy. Humbling yourself so that you can have a heart after God.

If we look back at what we learned over this series, we can see it. Before the time of David, God’s people were governed by the Judges, like Samuel, Eli, and of course the military juggernauts, Gideon, and Samson. At the end of this period, which is about a thousand years before Christ, God appoints a King to rule over the people, his name is Saul.

While Saul is King, Samuel who was the last Judge and is also a prophet hears from God that Saul is not following Him, and God tells him to go and visit the house of Jesse to anoint the next King. So Samuel visits the house of Jesse and looks at all his sons, and he says, “Do you have any other kids?” Jesse replies, “Well, yes, the youngest. But he’s out tending the sheep.” This runt, or shepherd boy, is David.

At this point God speaks to Samuel and says, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” Then Samuel anoints David.

Humility opens the door to having a heart after God. Now I want to be clear on what having a heart after God looks like. Charles Swindoll has a great quote and I’m going to read it to you.

“What does it mean to be a person after God’s own heart? It means your life is in harmony with the Lord. What is important to Him is important to you. What burdens Him burdens you. When He says, “Go to the right,” you go to the right. When He says, “Stop that in your life,” you stop it. When He says, “This is wrong and I want you to change,” you come to terms with it because you have a heart for God.” – Charles Swindoll.

This is David—the young shepherd boy who was anointed by Samuel to be king but humbled himself and waited for about 15 years. 15 years! This is David the warrior, the one who killed Goliath, and led the armies. This is David, the King who united the Monarchy of Israel. This is David the great, great, great grandfather of Jesus, our Savior. This is King David! But the most important thing in God’s eyes was David’s heart.

1. Humble yourself so that you can have a heart after God. Because, “having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy.”

4 *“Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the tribe of Judah he chose my family, and from my father’s sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.*

Even though David is probably extremely disappointed that he’s not able to build the temple—and everyone knew David wanted to build the temple—what does David do? David starts praising GOD. This is so counterintuitive! But this is a huge key to leaving a lasting legacy. In the valleys, in the dark times, and even in death, do we praise God and give thanks for all the things He has blessed us with?

That’s what David does in front of thousands of people. He gives thanks for his blessings and looks at all God has done in his life. When we have this outlook, or I could say when we have this heart, it’s extremely attractive. Not only is it attractive, it’s also God’s will.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:
16 *Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

2. Giving thanks in all circumstances will help you have a heart after God. And remember, “having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy.”

5 *Of all my sons—and the Lord has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.*

6 *He said to me: ‘Solomon your son is the one who will*

build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.’”

This is huge! Thousands of people are gathered around David, waiting on his instruction of who the next King will be. This is a big deal. And he chooses Solomon? Not Adonijah the next in line, the oldest living son? This goes against tradition and the norm; this caused a huge fight within the family. This is not the easy thing to do, and if you want to leave a lasting legacy you will have to go against the norm. You will have to have a heart after God and listen to what God wants you to do. And trust me, at times, it will go against the norm.

3. Listening and then doing what God wants is having a heart after Him. And, “having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy.”

Lets jump back in the text, remember the scene: thousands of people are there, listening to every word David says. And David says this,

9 *“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought.*

There are two points we can take away from this verse.

1. David draws his son’s attention to his heart. The heart, to follow God, acknowledge God, and serve God. Being a man who grew up without a father, I notice when fathers give advice to their sons. Parents, if I were to ask you what is the most important thing

you want your child to BE? What is the first thing that comes to your mind? Well, most of the time success comes up; healthy comes up; but the number one thing parents want their child to be is happy. The truth though, is that this isn’t what scripture teaches, and it’s not what David said to Solomon.

I cannot raise Jude to seek happiness, because seeking happiness will fail him when he’s not happy. Culture today tells us as parents what the priorities are in our children’s lives so that they will reach happiness. First is school, then sports, then family, and lastly, their faith.

This formula will make your child happy according to our culture. But that’s not the order God calls us to, and not the order we should be teaching our youth. David’s last public words to his son in front of thousands, is for Solomon to serve the Lord with all of his heart. He doesn’t emphasize education, sports, or even family. David says, “Solomon your faith is the most important thing in your life.” I encourage all of us to seek our faith first.

Tony Dungy was an NFL head coach who won a super bowl with Peyton Manning. When he speaks to young men about football he talks about the three most important things in his life. The three F’s, he calls them.

Now most people think football would be on that list, due to him being an NFL coach. But it’s not. Tony says that Faith, Family, then Friends are his top three priorities. In that order.

4 When we make our faith our number one priority, we communicate to ourselves and the people around us that we have a heart after God. And, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy

Which leads me to my second point of verse 9. David had a relationship with Solomon. Now we are getting into some real meat, I mean like Angus meat.

One of the most important things we learn from Jesus was this idea. Jesus is recorded saying this four times, which is very important; Jesus isn't usually recorded saying things four times. In fact, it was such a big deal to early Christians, they added a "great" to this commission. Jesus says...

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

We can't leave a legacy without discipleship. Check this out. When Jesus was sitting with his disciples and they were getting really worried about everything that was going on within their ministry. People started getting crazy, and Jesus sits them down and talks to them to comfort them and one of the things Jesus says is,

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these,

God calls us to discipleship. Please, let me speak to the Christians here, so if you're not a Christian you're off the hook.

The U.S. census says that one in three children grow up in America without a father. God wants men to lead the church and in the last fifty years men, including myself, have been failing at it. We love sitting on a board or being an elder but when it comes time to actually DO ministry, the men are usually too busy. Women are truly carrying the church on their backs.

Right now we have people that aren't making it to worship service because we only have a hand full of men downstairs mentoring our future kids. There are tons of women, but few men. This is crazy. There are kids like me, who grew up without a father, longing for men to teach them, mentor them, discipline them right downstairs. Men, we have to be involved in our next generation.

You know what I sought after the most being a child who didn't have a father? Male leadership. One in three children grow up without a father. Men, the church needs us to be involved in discipling the next generation.

Women, all the studies and surveys say y'all are doing a great job. I want to thank you for what you're doing in the church, and I want to encourage you to get involved in discipleship or a church program if you are not already involved. The church definitely needs you as well.

I also want to tell you, and you might not know this, but I'm thinking you do. Women, when I got married I figured this out. God speaks directly through you at times. I've been amazed at how influential my wife's words are when she speaks to me. And I would love if you could use that

influence to encourage your man to be involved. I've been told by men in this church that they can't go to Spartan's ministry Bible Study or a retreat because their wife says they can't go. If your husband grows in the Lord he will be a better husband.

Remember, their relationship with the Lord is more important than your relationship with him. You need to help them understand that. For example, we have a men's retreat coming up focused on relationships, discipleship, and how to get involved in the church. How many of you women have told your husband they have to go?

Jesus calls us to discipleship, and this is a team effort, we need men and women who have a heart after God creating more people who have a heart after God. Because, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

My last story is about a Hall of Fame NFL player, his name is Chris Carter, who is one of the greatest wide receivers to ever play football. Chris went into the NFL in 1987 and in the first three years, got caught up in drugs and alcohol. After he tested positive the third time in three years the Eagles fired him. In 1990, the Minnesota Vikings gave Chris a chance, and something happened. Chris surrendered his life to Christ, gave up drugs and alcohol, and focused on this faith and football. By 1996, Chris became a pro bowler and an ordained pastor.

Chris learned that Jesus Christ, on the Cross forgave his sins and this unimaginable act of love transformed his heart.

His heart began a process of looking more and more like David's. Several years later, Chris was retired and went to one of his son's Pop Warner games. During that year of football, Chris noticed a very talented player in his son's league—a player who had just lost his mother and was in need of a mentor. His name was Gio Bernard. Over the next five years, Chris mentored and supported Gio and even allowed Gio to live with him. After high school, Chris continued to mentor Gio, and Gio went to North Carolina and played football, and was later drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals. Gio and his father both believe that if Chris hadn't taken the time to reach out to Gio, Gio would not have gone to college and would not have made it to the NFL. Gio says Chris was like his second father.

When looking at this story, I see two legacies here. I see a Hall of Fame player who created a legacy for himself by being great at a sport, a lot like David.

David was famous for the things he did especially on the battlefield. I also see a legacy that is what I've been talking about today and what I see as a legacy that will last. Chris, who is a Christian man, mentored and disciplined Gio. This changed him. This act of a human life actually being changed and seeking after God is the legacy that I'm talking about today. And if we don't have people like Chris, how is the legacy of God going to continue? It's not our legacy, it's God's legacy. It's God's glory.

My Five points

1. Humble yourself so that you can have a heart after God. Because, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

2. Giving thanks in all circumstances will help you have a heart after God. And remember, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

3. Listening and then doing what God wants is having a heart after God. And, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

4. When we make our faith our number one priority, we communicate to ourselves and the people around us that we have a heart after God. And, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

5. Jesus calls us to discipleship, and this is a team effort. We need men and women who have a heart after God creating more people who have a heart after God. Because, "having a heart after God will leave a lasting legacy."

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