

1 Chronicles 28

Sunday 6/2/2024

We have been so fortunate in our church here ever since the beginning that we started. We try to cover all of the bases of meeting everybody's needs on whatever level that you may be on. As I said earlier, we have a fully trained staff of people able to counsel, whether it is marital problems, personal issues, or whatever the case may be. We really try to be there for you in everything.

Obviously, one of the most important aspects of this church is our children. From our nursery right up through our Timothy groups, we have dedicated men and women who are really there for your kids. One of the things that I hear all the time is when a visitor comes and they bring their kids, and they go in there, the kids want to come back. You have a really good program for them in there on whatever level that you do, and that is because of you and your dedication to that.

We have camp coming up here in about a month and a half. We have had great camping success with our high school and junior high kids ever since our first camp. Every year it has just gotten better and better and bigger and bigger. This year it is even better than it was last year from what we are looking at. We have another small group coming from England. We have groups from all over the country coming in, and certainly all of our kids here.

I think for parents in our church and anyone listening out there whose kids are coming—we have them coming all the way from Washington State, all the way from England, and everywhere in between—it is important that you understand what we try to do. We do not ever try to take the place of you as a parent. We are there to support you with everything that goes on.

We have had some really good men and women who have worked in our youth group over the years, and they helped get it to where it is at today. About a year and a half ago, Jared and Kenzie McClenahan took over the high school class, and they have done a phenomenal job. They meet on Thursday night. I think it was Thursday night a week ago you were packed up there around the place. They were hanging them on hooks on the wall; there were so many kids. It is really what it is supposed to be. These two kids are dedicated to your kids to help them and to help you.

Every year, because we are in the middle of the year before we get to camp, I like to have Jared come and lay out and preach to you his vision for what he wants to do. It takes both of you. We can have the greatest youth department in the world with the greatest workers, which we do, but if the parents do not get on board and support it, it is not going to go anywhere. And vice versa. You can have parents who want a youth group and not have anybody do anything with them, but it takes all of us together.

Recognizing the most important thing about it, I am going to be preaching on this next Sunday when we get into Psalms 12. The family is certainly under attack today, and the devil wants to destroy your children. Now, greater than ever, is a time to really reinforce everything that you can with your child. That is what camp is all about. We have several days there where there are no phones, no TV, nothing to distract them, so that dedicated people can really work with them in

the Word of God to help them get dedicated to the Word of God themselves. So I am excited about hearing what Jared has to say. I appreciate him and Kenzie; they are great people. They are the best people we can have up there. Jared, come on up here and lay on us what God has put on your heart.

Alright, can you hear me? Did I get it this time? We will not start without it. Before we read or anything, I will give a little background. As Bob said, I will be talking about camp, and all of our hopes and dreams for that. But I want to lay out today a couple of different things. One of those for sure is laying out exactly what our kids need, and in the context of that, being able to place where camp, youth group, and all those things fit within that.

This message has been on my heart for a long time. I had randomly been working on this message; I had six pages of notes on it before Bob even asked me to speak on this subject. This has been on my heart for a long time, and I am excited for the opportunity to share with you.

There is one unique thing about my situation: I am not an extraordinary preacher. I am barely passable as a Bible teacher in some ways, but I do get to see a lot of kids. I get to see a lot of kids, I get to know a lot of kids, I get to see a lot of kids who grow up and become amazing Christians, and then I get to see a lot of kids who grow up and fall back into the world. Either way, I get to be the end of the train. I get to be the one to see the fruit of their upbringings, to see the fruit of all of the investment that people have put into them, and see where that leads. This is something I spend a lot of time thinking about: thinking about those kids that make it and those kids that did not. What was the difference?

I found a study recently that said 66% of kids—two thirds—that start off in a Protestant church will give up their faith by the time they are 22. Two thirds, two out of three, will give up their faith by the time they are 22. Now I hear you say, "Well, that is other churches." Yes, amen. I agree; the churches today are a mess, so it is not a shocker. That number almost feels like it should be higher. But Sam Gipp, in his book *How to Minister to Youth*, says that you will lose about 50%, and surely it still feels too high.

So I will just be transparent with you. I sat down and I looked, and I started writing down the names of kids that, in the seven years that I have been here, loved the Lord, had a passion for God, gave testimonies, showed up at every church event, and now they are in the world. I wrote down that list, and in the last seven years, that ended up being 35 to 40 kids in this church. So I did not do the math; I do not really care that much. I almost do not want to know, right? But that 50% number seems about right. We will just go with that for the sake of argument. So, just like Gipp said, it ended up being a 10%—if you do not believe me, go on camp and look at the old camp photos from 2018. See how many faces are not here anymore, right?

So I sat down and did that; it might sound overly analytical, right? I am not trying to number the people, but as a pastor, my job is to know the state of my flock. So a statistic like the fact that 50% of my kids are not making it to adulthood in the faith is something that I should care about and something that I should be concerned about. This group that we have right now, especially our high schoolers, is incredible; I expect we do not lose a one. They are amazing. This group is my favorite group I have ever worked with in all the years I have been working with the youth.

But the reality is that for every one of them that is here, there is one that is not. That should be shocking; that should be impacting. So I see it as my duty to get up here and report this to you all, if I am going to do this right, to report to you all the reality of the situation: that we lose kids all the time.

We lose kids all the time, so obviously I do not think this situation necessarily always reflects on pastor or parents or anything like that. There are all sorts of messy situations: kids get into the church late in life, things happen, situations outside of their control, so you cannot read into that number. But there is one thing I am trying to impress on you, and it is the idea that just because you are in a good church, just because you have a perfect Bible, just because you show up on Sunday and Thursday, does not mean that you will not lose your kids. That is the thing that I want to impress upon you today.

So I wanted to look at what was the common thread among the kids that did not make it, and I think the conclusion—and this is what the Lord showed me in 1 Chronicles that we are going to read today—the conclusion was they were not provided some things that the successful kids were provided. Maybe they still would have left the church; the Lord gives them liberty too. But there was a consistent pattern of all those kids on that list: they were missing some things in their life. So today I want to lay out what those things were that they were missing, in hopes that we can protect that next generation and keep them from going down that same path.

I say 'kids' and not necessarily 'youth' because this is not necessarily just about the youth, right? Once again, I get to see the fruit of all the years of parenting and teaching. So these principles are actually best implemented even before the kid is born. These principles are things that need to be in place from day one. So this message is as much to parents like me that have a little 'snot factory' and one on the way, as it is to anybody that has a youth kid.

Now that we are in 1 Chronicles 28, I am going to go ahead and just pray us in.

Dear Lord, Thank You for this day and thank You for this opportunity to speak to this wonderful church that You have given me, Lord. I know I am not worthy or necessarily nothing special about me, Lord, but I pray that You would just take the burden You have put on my heart and be able to clearly translate it to these people, Lord, and give them what You have given me, so that we can all, at the end of the day, just help those that You have given us. In Your name, amen.

Alright. This chapter is all about David's charge to Solomon. David is now coming off the scene; he is pulling his son on to take his place, and he is giving him some instructions on how to carry the work of God forward. So I want to jump in here in verse 2, and I am just going to read this chunk, and then we will dissect it as we go.

1 Chronicles 28:2-8

Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath 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 liked me to make me king over all Israel:

And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.

Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.

The kids are probably already sick of me saying this. We are going through—this is pretty much right where we are at in our Bible reading right now. The kids are probably sick of me asking them what is so special about David. The answer they would give you now, hopefully, any single one of them I could ask, is that what is so special about David is he is a man after God's own heart. That is something no one has accused me of being, right? So I guess I have something to learn from David. He is a man after God's own heart, so I want to take this opportunity to look at what a man after God's own heart does for his kid. What are the things he gives Solomon to set him up for success?

I. David's Heart: A Model for Solomon

The first thing, go back to verse 2 with me.

1 Chronicles 28:2

Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

This is where it all starts. Before he set a single command to Solomon, before he had given Solomon a single instruction, before he had told Solomon to do anything, this all starts with a burden that David has in his heart for the Lord. If it started the other way, this would not have been so powerful, right? David could have gotten up and said, "Hey Solomon, the Lord says build a temple, go do it." Or he could have said, "Hey Solomon, if you do not build a temple for the Lord, you are going to lose the blessings." Those are both true statements. But it is powerful because it is a father with a burden for the Lord, inviting his kid to come alongside him and minister to the Lord together out of that same heart. His heart does three things for Solomon.

1. Through his heart, David was a model for Solomon.

Kids need good role models today, right? Amen. Even if that is not amen, what is the amen when I say they are rare right now, right? It is a little bit bigger. Good role models are so rare right now. You know that good role models are super important based on how viciously the devil attacks any good role models our kids have. How eager he is to get rid of any good role models. Every politician is corrupt. Every megachurch pastor is some variety of evil or nasty. All the dads on TV shows, are they wise fathers instructing their kids? No. They are bumbling idiots, and the kids are the ones that actually know what is going on, right? The schools are trying to run off any teacher that has any semblance of masculinity or any semblance of someone that thinks there are two genders. They will openly teach your kids, "Hey, do not listen to your pastor; do not listen to your parents. They are just bigots. You know better than them."

For my part in this, and my youth ministry's part in this, number one, I always seek to make sure that I am a good role model for the kids as best as I can. I praise the Lord if it works. But I am also very eager and very diligent to try my best to make sure the leaders in my ministry are good role models for the kids as well. I met up with my youth leaders a few weeks ago, and we talked about this. The first thing that I said to them was that their first responsibility was being a good role model to the kids. I gave them this verse:

Luke 17:1-2

Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

It is inevitable that our kids are going to get exposed to trash. It is the world we live in. My goal is that it does not come through us. I believe that if you work with the youth, you give up a degree of your liberty in that; we are now under a microscope. We are now being inspected by the kids, and I do not know about you, but when I was a kid, before I knew Bible principles and before I knew how to dissect right and wrong from the Bible, how do you get your moral compass? You get it by looking at the older Christians around you. If the older Christian next to me did this, I just assumed it was right. Whether or not they were a good Christian, I did not know the difference. I was a kid, right? That is the issue with needing to make sure that we are good models.

I remember as a kid, I used to enjoy singing—or maybe I did, I do not know, I cannot remember—but I remember vividly in high school that I stopped singing in any church service. The reason I stopped singing in any church service is because all the cool guy leaders did not think it was cool to sing, so they all sat quiet in the back. So I remember how, where I before kind of had this desire, now the model that was set for me changed how I behaved and affected my relationship with the Lord. So I will do everything in my power to make sure that we are the best models for your kids. That is my part of this thing, but there is only so much we can model, right, as youth helpers. The youth kids see us for a couple of hours a week, and they see us in a very limited

setting. The real models that set the impact for their kids are the parents; I think you know that, right?

I look back in my own life and I realize I learned to prioritize the ministry because my family would give up evenings and nights to go take care of someone or set up VBS at our old church or things like that. I remember how I learned the importance of reading my Bible because I would come down the stairs early in the morning and I would see my dad out on the patio with his coffee and his Bible, spending time with his Father. I learned how to properly love my wife by watching my father properly love my mother throughout my childhood, and even eventually I would learn the biblical principles on how to treat my wife right. I would learn the biblical principles on how I am supposed to handle her, but even that did not replace getting to see those modeled for 18 years while I was at home.

So I ask myself all the time, and this is something I think about fairly often, especially now as a new parent, right? This is, you are kind of living life on your own, and all of a sudden you have this thing that copies what you say. It is really scary. You are like, "Oh no, I need to..." That word was not that bad coming out of my mouth, but it is not so cute coming out of hers. So I ask myself all the time, if she copied me, would I be okay with that? If she followed my model, would I be okay with that? If she copied my model of Bible time, where would she end up? If she copied my model of ministry and how much I prioritize ministry, would I be okay with that? If she copied and married a man that treats her the way that I treat my wife, would I expect her to find better? This idea that I am a model for my child is huge.

2. Through his heart, David's heart influenced Solomon's heart.

Think back to where most of your preferences in life come from. Why do you like the TV you like? Why do you like the movies you like? That comes from our family, right? For the most part, you are not identical to your parents or identical to your siblings, but there is always kind of a thread. You are kind of into the same thing. I think back to, why do I like hokey 80s movies or sci-fi TV shows? Because I came by it honest, right? That is what my parents were into. Why do I have the career I have? I am doing the exact same thing my father does, and I know many of our kids are following in their dad's footsteps as well when it comes to the ministry or their career. You can ask, why are you into the sports that you are into, right? Why do I like the Huskers with an undying passion, right? That is where my family was. Or better yet, why are you good at the sports that you are at? This is why I am good at none, because my family was not into sports. Love you, Dad.

This is the running joke whenever we were at work or whenever I do anything athletic with my work now or in the past: it was always just that my daddy never taught me how to throw. That is what they would always ask me. I remember I was working for Bubba and Donny back in the day, and it was my first softball season. My first softball season for Old Paths; I had never touched a bat and never touched a softball. So I was kind of nervous. I feel like Jason and Eli were starting to throw rocks; we were out in this field kind of warming up, kind of practicing for the softball season. So Jason gets up and takes a big old rock. I mean, I could not even see it hit the ground, right? It was way out there. Eli came up and loaded up and did the same thing. So I

get up after them. I am like, "Okay, I saw him do it. I can figure this out. I am a smart guy." So I pick up a rock. If I was aiming for back right there, that rock, I swear to goodness, went straight 90 degrees this way. I do not think it even gained an inch of momentum. I do not know how I did it. It was amazing. But you see, you pick up the vibe and the heart of your family.

So we see this in the Bible; we even see this with Jacob, right? Jacob was a schemer; Jacob lied to his father, and what did his kids do to him? They lied to him. I think it is no coincidence, right, that David's primary issue was the ladies, and what was Solomon's downfall? Women as well. Ironically, in this situation of talking about his good heart, I think some of the bad things might have come through as well. Whether we like it or not, our kids take on our heart.

Here is the reality: If I skip church because I am tired, I should not be shocked someday when my kid falls into the world because I modeled for them that my comfort is more important than obedience. If I work crazy hours, and I do not have time to read my Bible, I should not be surprised someday when my kid takes a job that is working Sundays, because I modeled to them that money is more important than God. I should not be shocked if we as a family can carve out 12 hours a week or 20 hours a week for activities and are too busy for the ministry. I should not be shocked when my kid does not prioritize the ministry in life either. So there are things, there is an impact to all the things that we do, even if we are not intentionally giving them principles, we could be giving them the right principles. But where is our heart? If my kid takes my heart, what are they going to get? Just like how the pastor sets the culture for their church, or the CEO sets the culture for the company, we set our own family heart.

3. Through his heart, David gained the help of the Lord.

Here is why a perfect heart like David's is so important.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

I do not know about you, but parenting is hard. It is not easy. I think you can act—people get up and say, "Well, it is not hard, it is a blessing." No, it is hard. Alright. You are sitting there, trying to find the line where you can finally discipline Opal, or is she just being—did she actually hear me that time? I do not know if she actually heard me, and now you are playing this game in your head. Right. You do not expect these moments where you are like, "Well, where do I draw the line? Was that disobedience? Or was she just...?" You are trying to figure these things out.

Parenting is hard, but I take great comfort in knowing, "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD." I take great comfort in knowing that if my heart is set on God and my heart is right with the Lord, that He is on my side in helping me do the difficult task of parenting. To think that I could properly raise my child without that assistance would be arrogance on my own part, and thinking too highly of myself.

This is one of the hardest things. As parents, we are so good, and we think so much about our kids, and we try so much to give them everything we can. We read all the stupid parenting books that are full of maybe marginally helpful advice. We plan, we sacrifice, we give up our evenings,

we give up tons of gas money, we give up all sorts of things for the kids. But if we neglect our relationship with the Lord in the midst of that, our kids are worse off because of it. Some of us, I kind of think it is funny, I feel like are spiritual Marthas when it comes to parenting.

Luke 10:41-42

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Does that not sound like parenting? Right? By the way, most of us parent at least. Careful and troubled about many things. Sometimes I think we lose sight as parents that really there is one thing that our kid needs. If you wanted to boil it down into one thing, there is one thing our kids need. They do not need a big house. They do not need to go to an Ivy League school. They do not need 500 activities to build their character. They need parents that have a heart for God. There is no better blessing you can give your kid than having a heart for God yourself. It would be better for a kid to live in a box on Prospect with parents that love the Lord and have a heart for Him than it would be to live in some Johnson County mansion with parents that are kind of 'meh' on the Lord. It is that important.

So my hope for us as parents—either of little, as I said, 'snot factories,' old kids, or even spiritual kids, right, even people we are just discipling—My hope for us is that we would spend more time considering our own hearts before we even think about them and what they are doing. We spend more time considering our hearts. I think about the first time I went on an airplane. I vividly remember when they are giving you the spiel, the little security spiel, and you have to do this, and here is how you buckle, and all that stuff. And then they say, "The oxygen masks pop down, and you are sitting next to your kid. Do not put your kid's on. Put yours on first." I remember just being indignant the first time I heard that. I am like, "What a selfish thing to do." Of course, I am going to put it on my kid first. "You commies." I do not know. It was awful. I was so mad. And then eventually you realize, "Oh, if you put it on that kid and then you pass out, then that kid is not doing so hot." Right? So a lot of us kind of need to spiritually make sure we are putting the masks on ourselves first. The best thing I can do for my kids is make sure that my heart is set on the Lord so that when they get my heart—not if, but when they get my heart—they do not just get a love of coffee. They get a love for the Lord.

II. David's Vision: Preparing for God's Purpose

The second thing David provides for Solomon: The first was his heart; the second thing was he provided a vision. Anyone who has been around Old Paths long enough has heard Bob talk about the need for having a vision as parents. This is not something new, right?

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish:

We have heard this verse, Proverbs 29:18, many times. So I think the good parents of this church probably have one. I do not think that there is anybody here that has heard those sermons and did not at least put a little bit of thought into, "What kind of vision do I have for my kid?" What plan do I have for the future? Is there anything I can be doing for it? I am sure I will just assume that basically every parent in here has some vision in one way, shape, or form. My fear is not that we do not have any vision. My fear is that our visions are inadequate. The visions we provide to our children are not good enough.

In this culture that we live in right now, it is basically—it is so frustrating. The main goal is to basically hand off as much of your parenting to professionals as you can. This is something we come across whenever Kenzie and I are watching videos about parenting or things like that. Your kid has issues; you send them to a psychiatrist. Your kid has struggles at school; you send them to a special tutor. The school is in charge of teaching them everything under the sun. I feel like this also leaks into Christianity where sometimes we as parents think, "Hey, I got my kid saved." I made him moderately pleasant to be around. That is the end of my spiritual responsibility right there. The church can take care of the rest. My argument is that is not good enough nor biblical. And I am not saying that getting our kids saved is not a beautiful thing. It is. I am not saying I do not worry about Opal and her salvation, and I am not saying I do not pray for her salvation, but that is literally the starting point for her life and walk with the Lord. So I think our visions need to go beyond just getting my kids saved. Our visions need to be a little bit deeper.

So I want to look at David now. David has a vision for Solomon, and I want to look at some of the different aspects that he included in that vision so that we can maybe beef up our visions with some of the things that David did. Look at verses 5 and 6 with me here.

1 Chronicles 28:5-6

And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

The reality is our kids were chosen the exact same way that Solomon was. I think we forget about that sometimes. Have you ever thought about that? That your kid—look at him right there, that one right there, right? Those kids, those ones sitting in this room right now—that kid was chosen by the Creator of the universe to do something for Him. Have you ever let that stew for a minute, realized the depth of that, realized the importance of that? Your kid did not get selected by something else, right? They got selected, chosen by the Creator of the universe to do good works for Him. So when David puts together his vision for Solomon, this is where he starts: he realizes that Solomon was chosen by God for God, and then that influences his vision for the rest of the time.

Psalms 127:3

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

It is not my reward. It is God's reward. He did not give us our kids so that they can serve my purposes. He did not give me my kids so they can keep me comfortable in my old age. He did not give me my kids so I can vicariously live through them. He did not give me my kids even for their own purposes. He gave me my kids so that they could serve Him. That is the only reason. They are His heritage, not mine. So knowing that, and knowing that our kids are called to serve the Lord, our vision should include the necessary steps to help them to that end. Right? Does that make sense? Not that crazy.

As dads, and this is kind of funny, right? As dads, I feel like we have lists of things that we like; you are secretly talking about, "I want my kid to know that." I really want my daughter to know how to change the oil and change her tire so she does not have to rely on some stupid guy to rescue her on the side of the road, right? We as parents, I want to make sure my boy knows how to hunt and fish so when the government comes to shut us down, he can provide for himself, right? All these parents have these lists. I want to make sure that my kid knows how to treat a lady. I want to make sure that my boy knows how to swim so that if we ever go in the water, he is safe. You run with parents, you run this list; even before I was a parent, you are like, "I want my kid to know that." I think that would be sweet if my kid knew X, Y, or Z. The list goes on.

But the question is, I want to prepare them for everything in the earthly life. I want to give them so many things so that they can succeed in their career, and so they can succeed in family, and they can succeed in whatever else on this earth. Do I have a similar list of things that I want to give them and make sure they have for the Lord and His mission for them? Do I think about how I need to make sure they know the principles of Genesis 24 so they can find a good spouse? Do I want them to know about the Romans Road so that if they come across someone that is unsaved, they can maybe help them? Do I want them to know the book of Acts so that if they come across some crazy doctrine, they will be able to shoot it down? As a father, I am so engaged in making sure my kid knows all of these earthly things, but do I have this same heart and same desire to make sure that she collects this list of principles and things that will support her in her work for God? I should have that list.

That is not to say that I have to be the one to teach her all those things, right? If I want my daughter to learn church history, I am working on it; we are getting there; it is big, alright? Right now, if my daughter needed to learn church history, she would have to go talk to Bob Alexander, right? Amen? If I want my daughter to learn how to be an elegant, stand-up Proverbs 31 woman, she is going to my wife, right? She is probably better at it than me. If I want my daughter to be good at a sport, we will delegate that as well, right? You get this idea. I do not have to necessarily be the one to do all these things, but it comes back to me and being responsible and having the vision and having the list to make sure that she gets those things that I think that she needs. So that is my responsibility as a parent, just like how the CEO does not necessarily have to go do all the work of all of his employees, right? But he can still set the vision for his company. They just have to have the responsibility for all those things.

So this is one of the first places I see where the youth group comes in, and this is something that we can help you with. You as parents, and we as parents, have to have that list; we have to have that idea of where our kids are heading and what the Lord wants them to do so that we can come

up with our vision, but you do not necessarily have to execute it all on your own. This is where the youth group can be helpful. My favorite thing is when a parent comes to me and says, "Hey, I am working with my kid on this." "Can you talk to him about this? Or, 'Hey, here is my vision for my kid. Can you help them with this?' Or, 'Hey, here is my problem. What do you think? What can we do for this?'" I love those moments as a youth pastor. I love those moments as a youth pastor. And you better believe, I mean, I have a vision for our kids. You better believe I have a spreadsheet with our kids' names on it and a list. I am trying my best to get kids leadership opportunities. I am trying my best to get kids opportunities to help each other and to serve the Lord and to sharpen each other. I am planning that. But my vision fundamentally is short-sighted at best because I do not—I mean, I only see the kids for so long. Right?

I often hear parents use the excuse of why they just delegate to the youth ministry. They say, "Well, my kid does not listen to me." Well, sure. Okay. They do not listen to you. Maybe that is true. But the reality is that, yes, they do not listen to you, but I do not even know the true them a lot of times. Believe it or not, if someone wants to, they can come to church and put on a face. Shocking, right? Believe it or not, if it were up to me, as far as I can tell, none of our kids have any issues. They are all perfect. I love them all. Right? You are laughing though, right? It says that I am not seeing some things. Okay. So the parents' vision—you as parents—are especially equipped to help your kids to know the things that they need, to know the ways they need to improve. So you have to maintain that list, but we are here to be the helper in that if you need it. Right? And that is kind of where I want to leave off. We are here to help, but you have to maintain that list.

➤ Seeing the Danger for Solomon

III. David's Resources: Equipping for the Work

The third thing that David provides now: He provided his heart, he provided his vision, and now he provides the resources for the work. To start with me, I am going to bounce around a little bit, and I am going to look at verse 11 and then bounce down to 14.

1 Chronicles 28:11

Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

1 Chronicles 28:14-18

Of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service:

Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick.

And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver:

And pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basins, and the weight of every basin for gold; and silver by weight for every basin of silver:

And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

So now that David has given him the vision, now he has given him the tools to execute on that vision. Remember that David could not build the temple. God did not allow David to build the temple. So a lesser man, I feel like, in David's situation—David says, 'Hey Lord, I want to build You a temple,' and the Lord says, 'Nope, sorry, cannot do it.' A lesser man would have gone, 'Alright, guess I will just chill.' What did David do though? He spent years and years and years preparing and building up a stockpile of resources so that even though he could not build it, his kid could. That was such a burden he had for the Lord. He proceeds to give as much as he humanly can to his son.

So now I do not have time to get into the study of the temple and the tabernacle and all the different furnishings that are involved. You are just going to have to go ask Bob on Thursday or something if you do not know about that. But each of these things that we read about—the candlestick and the table of showbread—they all represent something spiritually that we need in order to have a relationship with the Lord.

1 Timothy 3:17

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Just like David, I cannot build those things for my kid. I cannot build the furnishings for my child. But I can give them the pattern and the resources to build those things. I cannot make them listen to the Holy Spirit, but I can show them how to be guided by the light of the candlestick and see where He is leading them. I cannot make them love their Bible, but I can walk them to the table of showbread and show them how to eat from the true manna. I cannot make them pray, but I can show them the pattern of the altar of incense so that they can learn to talk to their real Father. I cannot make them love God or have a relationship with God, but I can show them how to sit in front of the mercy seat and slowly build that relationship over time. There is nothing that is going to help my kid more in life than if they can get those furnishings in their life. If I want them to be a successful parent, if I want them to be a successful spouse, if I want them to be a successful minister, that all comes back to their relationship with the Lord. So me helping them get those things into their life is one of the greatest things that I can do for them. It is not a burden; it is a blessing. I cannot guarantee in life that my kid is going to be successful. I cannot guarantee that she is going to have a life of comfort. I cannot guarantee that civil war is not going to break out in the next week. It could happen, but I can make sure that my kid has the resources and the patterns to build a relationship with the Lord. I can make sure of that, and that will carry him through.

➤ Providing Helpers for the Work

IV. Conclusion: A Return on God's Investment

So in closing here, I want to look at verse 14. We will end here.

1 Chronicles 29:14

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

David's heart is amazing. After he has given so much, he has given basically a lifetime of collecting and storing these treasures after he gives those all back to the Lord. He sits there and goes, "Who am I to give back to You, Lord?" He says, "This is all Yours anyway." "Who am I to give back to You?" Makes me think of Luke 19 where the master temporarily gives his servants charge of his money. And there are the good servants that take what the master gave them and use it to give back more to the master in the end. And then there is the bad servant that keeps it hidden and safe and has nothing for the master when he comes back. In the same way, the Lord has given me my kids. We have already looked at how they are not for me. They are an inheritance that goes back to Him. They are His reward. So someday I will have to give them back to the Lord. And the question is, did I get a return on His investment or did I just keep my kids safe?

Makes me think of my grandpa and grandma. My grandma has gone to be with the Lord, but so there are the two of them. They had six children. There are now 21 grandkids and 40 plus one in terms of great-grands with Kenzie's baby now. So counting spouses, our baby will make number 89, with five in glory that come out of this family. Of those 89, most, if not all, are saved. There are multiple pastors that came out of that group. Many, many Bible teachers, many involved in the ministry. This is something I sit and ponder. Think of the exponential growth. Think of that return on investment. What a bounty my grandpa is going to return to the Lord with. Blows my mind when I think about it. I was texting him yesterday to get some of those numbers, and he sends back Proverbs 17:6.

Proverbs 17:6

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Look, pastors are great. Missionaries are great. But do not forget the impact of a husband and wife that do what they are supposed to do with their kids. That have a heart for the Lord, that have a multi-generational vision for their family, that provide the necessary resources to their kids so that they can do what the Lord has called them to do. So my charge to all of us as parents is to do what we can to make sure we are providing these things for our kids. David set the example for us with his perfect heart. So if you need help with this, I will do my part to help as much as I can. I realize that if this is the first time you have heard this, or you are a newer Christian, or you are a single parent, that this may be intimidating and stressful. Hey, that is why there are helpers, right? That is why David recruited helpers. That is why there is Bob. So if that is your situation, if there is a tricky situation, talk to Bob, talk to me, whatever you have to do. But at the end of the day, my goal is just that we can work together. My ministry and you as

parents, to give our kids everything that they need to be successful for the Lord. That is all I have for you today.