

1 Chronicles 12:1-40

Sunday 6/22/2025

I hope you guys have all anchored your soul there. I am excited to have the opportunity to get up in front of you guys this morning. Today's message is going to be our camp kickoff a little bit early. It is never good timing; it is never a good thing for Bob to get sick and not be able to get up here and preach. But if it has to happen, then I think it probably is good timing that it happened this particular week and this weekend for me to have the opportunity to get up in front of you and share a little bit of my heart.

Hopefully, I will challenge you all a little bit as we head into this final month that we have in preparation for camp at the end of next month. We need to make sure that we are fully set, that we are locked and loaded as a group to do everything that needs to be done so that this camp can be a complete success for the Lord. It gives us a chance to look at some things today and, as I said, hopefully to examine ourselves and see where we are heading into that, as opposed to getting there and realizing that, "Oh, we have some rough edges that we have to work on." We can do it ahead of time.

I am going to reveal as part of this today what the camp theme is this year. A few of you may have heard it already, but I do not know if we have talked about it. I think it literally may just be something that Jared, Kenzie, Jamie, and I have talked about up to this point. We have had a lot of really great themes over the years. Just thinking back, just over the last few, we had a theme one year about "Build Your Wall." We talked to the kids about the importance of building that wall to protect yourself from the devil and from his influences and from the world. The Bible talks about how a city without walls is, I am butchering the verse now, but where the walls are broken down, that you are a mess emotionally, spiritually, and everything else when we do not have those walls built up.

We did a theme once a few years back that was called "Inside Out." We talked about the importance of developing who you are for the Lord from the inside out and focusing on that inner man and really building ourselves and building a real relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. A couple of years ago, our theme was "Dare to be a Daniel," and that was actually a repeat. That is such a good theme; that is probably one that we will bring back about every five or six years. What a great story that is in the Bible of how young men, teenagers who were taken captive in a foreign land, in a foreign country, and brought into the King's palace. It says that Nebuchadnezzar wanted to feed him a daily portion of the King's meat, which is exactly what the world and what the devil wants to try to do with our kids today. We challenge the kids to dare to be a Daniel, to resist that, to stand up against that, and say, "I am not going to take what the world has to offer. I am going to take what God has, and that is going to be enough."

Last year, our theme was "The Born Identity," and we really dug into looking at who you are as a born-again Christian, born in Christ, who you really are in Christ, and knowing who you are and gaining the confidence that comes with that and the ability to really be everything that God wants you to be and the ability to really serve the Lord. I think this year, especially looking around, and we will probably chat about it a little bit as we go through this morning, looking around at the

world today and looking at the things that are going on and the times that we live in, I think this year's theme is about as perfect as it could be.

So our theme this year is "TikTok: Are You Ready?" It is obviously a little play on words because we know that all these kids love TikTok, and we are not going to be making short videos all week long. That is not it. TikTok as in a clock, an actual clock that is ticking, that we know we are coming down to the end of things here. We know that the Lord is going to shut this thing down. He is coming back soon, and we want to ask these kids if they are ready for the end, if they are ready for what is coming.

We have some kids that are going to be at this camp; every single kid at this camp is going to have some decisions that they need to be making. Some of them need to make a decision for Christ. Some of them are going to come in, and they do not know the Lord as their personal Savior. Our hope and prayer, of course, is that they would make that decision to accept Christ as their Savior that week. But the ones that are already saved are going to have some decisions to make for the Lord, to decide what they are going to do with the time that they have remaining, however long or short that it may be, and what they are going to do with their lives for the Lord and whether they are going to fully and wholly dedicate themselves to God or not.

Of course, you know already that Mike Fernandez is going to be coming in and is going to be our main speaker for our evening services. We are excited about that. You all got to hear him not long ago when he was in town. He is a great preacher, and I know he is going to do an amazing job, and the kids are absolutely going to love him. It is going to be a really, really good week. We hope that, as I said, these kids make some decisions about what they are going to do and where they are going to be.

If you have your Bibles, turn to 1 Chronicles 12, because as I said, this is intended to be a camp kickoff message. As I thought about what I would preach in speaking with Bob, when he said that he was not probably going to be able to preach today, this passage came to mind, and I think it fits perfectly for what we are, where we are, what we need to be ready for this camp, but where we are, and it fits right into the theme of the camp of, "Are you ready?"

In 1 Chronicles 12, what you have happening here is it is a listing and a description of all of the men that are coming to support David and are coming to make David king of Israel. The Bible in this chapter tells us some things about these various men, and we are going to take these things and apply them to ourselves, apply them to our own lives, to our own preparation for camp, and hopefully get a good idea and a good understanding of where each and every one of us needs to be as we head into that camp. Not only camp, but as a church in general, as we operate within the ministries of Old Paths Baptist, these things are going to apply to us.

We are going to read the first verse here, and then we are going to go to the Lord in prayer, and we will get started with it.

1 Chronicles 12:1

Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Thank You for the opportunity to be here this morning and to preach this message that You laid on my heart, Lord. I just pray that Your Holy Spirit would speak through me today, Lord, and give me the words to say today, Lord. Do not let me stumble and stutter over my words and my thoughts, but let Your Holy Spirit just truly empower me. Give me the words that You want me to say, Lord, and then let it be a blessing to everybody that is here this morning.

I pray, Father, that we will be able to take the things that we are going to talk about this morning, look within our lives as individuals and as a group and as a church, to really examine ourselves and ask ourselves the question, "Are we truly ready? Are we ready for this camp? Are we ready to do the job that You have called us to do so that this camp can be everything that You want it to be?" We know, Lord, that You are preparing the kids that are going to be there. You are getting their applications in, and You have every single young person that is going to be at this camp is going to be there by design because You want them to be there.

Lord, it is our duty, it is our job to make sure that we are fully equipped and that we are fully prepared to do everything that needs to be done so that Your Holy Spirit can just walk His way through that camp and accomplish everything that He wants to in the lives of those kids. So I pray this morning as we go through this message again, that Your Holy Spirit will give me the words to say, let me clearly lay across the plate what You would have me to say today, Lord, and let it just be a blessing for everybody, and we will do it for Your honor and glory. We love You, and we ask this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

I. Ready Armed to the War

As I said, these men are coming, and they are here; they are gathering together to put David on the throne, to get Saul out of there and move David in as king. We are going to look at a handful of things that the Bible tells us about these men. The first thing we are going to look at is all the way down to 1 Chronicles 12:23.

1 Chronicles 12:23

And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

So there it is. That is our theme right there. That is where we are going to start. That first thing we are going to talk about, it says they were "ready armed to the war." These men came, and they were ready to go. They knew the job that they were being called to do, and it says at the end of that verse, "according to the word of the LORD." This was not something that they were taking upon themselves. This was something that they were called to do. It was according to the Word of God that they were to come and to establish David on the throne.

Now we know that Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we are in a spiritual warfare. I am not going to spend a lot of time harping on this. You guys know this. This is basic Bible 101, basic discipleship.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We are fighting a spiritual battle. In the Old Testament, they were preparing to fight a physical battle. So it was actual physical warfare with swords and spears and shields and bows and arrows. But we have a different weapon, and we know, of course, that again in Ephesians 6 and over in Hebrews, it tells us that the Word of God is our weapon. The Word of God is our sword that we use to fight this battle.

We have to be prepared. It says they were "ready and armed to the war." They did not just show up and say, "Hey, what would you like us to do, David?" They came, and they were strapped and ready to go. They had their swords at their side, their spears in their hand, and they had their shields ready to fight the battle. So the first thing that we have to make sure that we are as we head into this camp in a month is we need to make sure that we are ready. That is our theme for the kids. We are going to ask the kids, "Are they ready for what God has for them and what God wants to do for them?" But I am asking you today, and I am asking myself today, "Are we ready for that?"

Let us look at a couple of things. We are not going to turn now. I am just going to go through quickly some things that the Bible tells us that we need to be ready to do.

- Two Passages That Pulls it all Together...
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But what is going to stop you? What is going to stop you from being ready? Mark 14:38 is a verse where when the disciples were, where Jesus was going into the garden, they were told to pray, and He says, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Then He says this:

Mark 14:38

The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Now we often quote the companion verse to that, which I believe is in Matthew, where we say, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Everybody knows that verse. But it is interesting that in this verse, He says, "The spirit truly is ready." So He is associating our readiness with the

obstacle of being ready, which is our flesh. So He says, "Your flesh is what is going to hold you back. Your flesh and giving into your flesh is what is going to keep you from truly being ready."

In this case, in the context, it is about what? It is about prayer. We have got to be on our knees on a daily basis praying to the Lord about our own walk with Him, about our own relationship, about the people that God puts in our lives, the opportunity that He puts in our lives, the things that He would have us to do, and absolutely 100% about this camp that is coming up. If we are going to be ready for this camp, we better be praying about it as much as we possibly can now and for the next week leading up to it.

There are a lot of things to do. There is a lot of busyness, and I am not discounting it. It has to be done. But we cannot overlook the most important thing, which is to be praying for this camp, to be praying for each other, to be praying for the opportunities that are going to be there. But it is your flesh that is going to stop you. You have got to crucify that flesh. You have got to maintain that proper focus and that proper attitude to make sure that you are doing everything in your power to be ready as these men were and to be ready and armed to the war.

II. Using Both Hands

Now, go back and let us look at 1 Chronicles 12:2. Let us look at the next thing here.

1 Chronicles 12:2

They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.

So the second thing we see here is not only were they ready, armed to the war, it says they could use both hands. They could use both hands. Now, what does that mean? Before we get to that, let us note this. It is interesting that it says these men were armed with bows. We know that Psalm 127:4 says:

Psalms 127:4

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Now, we use that verse primarily in talking about child raising, and rightly so. That is the primary application of that verse. But in the situation that we are in, as we head into this camp and the impact that we are looking to have on all of these kids, we are coming in with bows and arrows as well. We are going to have the opportunity to fire these kids in a direction, the same way that their parents can fire their kids in a direction. So what direction are we going to shoot them, and are we ready to do that? Are we skilled enough to be able to do that?

You know, a bow and arrow is something that takes a lot of skill. It takes a lot of effort. You cannot just pick it up and be good at that. I mean, there are certain things. You go hunting with a shotgun, it is a little bit... I am not saying it is easy, but it is a little bit easier because of the way a shotgun sprays the buckshot out. You want to go and try to go hunting with a bow and arrow? That is pretty tough. There is no scope that is good for 200 yards that you can attach to a bow and arrow to be able to pinpoint and shoot an animal. So as we think about shooting these bow

and arrow, it involves some skill. That involves practicing. That involves taking the time and the effort to do that.

But let us talk about this left-hand, right-hand thing because that is the main focus of this point. It says that they can use their left hand or their right hand. Now, I do not know how many of you are aware of this, but even in my... As I said earlier, I am almost 50 years old. I am a spectacular athlete, okay? Still to this day. If you have any doubts about Trevin, you beat me in pickleball before you start shaking your head. If you have any doubts about it, just come and watch me play softball. You will see what I am talking about. No, I am kidding. That is actually not true. But I have played baseball my whole life, okay? So I am not bad at softball. When I throw a ball, at least I look normal when I throw a ball. But put a ball in my left hand and watch me throw it, and I will look like I have never seen a ball in my life. Like, it is the first time that I have ever even touched one.

Try to do anything with your left hand if you are right-handed, or if you are following along, if you are left-handed, try to do something with your right hand. Same challenge. It is hard to do. You look like you cannot function when you are trying to use your off-hand. I hope there are no little kids in here. I am not trying to ruin anything. My kids, when they were growing up, okay? When Santa Claus would come, they would write a note to Santa with the cookies, and they would ask him questions, and they would say things to him. So Santa would answer back. But I wanted to disguise my handwriting, so I would use my left hand. So my kids probably grew up thinking that Santa had some serious problems, okay? Because if we still have some of those letters, and you could see it, I mean, it was not good, okay? But I knew they were not going to think it was my handwriting because I would try to write it with my left hand. You cannot do things with your off-hand very well.

Yet it says these men, it says they could use both the right hand and the left hand in hurling stones. So what is that? What is the application here? It is about being in season and out of season, as it says in 2 Timothy 4:2. It is about being flexible and being adaptable. Not everything is going to go the way that you want it to go in the ministry, and not everything at camp is going to go the way that you want it to go. So you better be prepared to throw a ball with your left hand.

We have all seen Patrick Mahomes do it. He is kind of a wizard at it. I remember the first time I saw him do it, I think it was against the Broncos, like his first year that he was a starter. It was amazing to me. He is running out to his left. He has got guys that are six inches from killing him. There is no way he could throw a ball. If he tries to throw a ball back here, they are going to strip it. He puts it in his left hand, and he throws it, I do not know, 10 or 15 yards. Perfect pass for a first down. I have never really seen anything like it, you know? That is what we need to be able to do. We need to be able to throw that ball. We need to be able to throw those stones, those rocks with our left hand.

You are going to get curveballs thrown at you in the ministry. You are going to get curveballs thrown at you that week. You are going to have to be flexible. You are going to have to be able to adjust and adapt. Nobody notices that anything changed. Nobody notices anything about it. Too

many times, we get locked in that, "Well, this is how it is. This is how it has to be." But everybody knows when it comes to any type of a battle situation that you go into a battle with plans, and as soon as the first bullet is fired, the battle plans go out the window. You do the best you can. But then you are adjusting on the fly, and you are relying on your training, and you are relying on all of the things that you know to get you through it.

You better believe that there is going to be bullets flying that week at camp. We are going to have kids there, as I said at the beginning, that need the Lord as their Savior. We are going to have kids there that know the Lord as their Savior, but they need to get their lives straightened out. They need to get themselves on a path where they are beginning to really dedicate their lives to the Lord and begin to grow spiritually and serve God. Anytime you have a situation like that, the devil is going to want to come in and disrupt that any way that he possibly can. So we have got to be prepared for that. It is just not going to go exactly the way that you want it to go.

Remember the story of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. Remember how Philip was, he was preaching a revival in Samaria, and lives were being changed, men and women were getting saved. God called him out of that revival and sent him to the backside of the desert. For who knows what? He got up, and he went. As a result, he was able to come across this Ethiopian eunuch, and he won him to the Lord and then baptized him after he got saved. That is an example of being flexible to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. I do not think he had any intention or ever had any thoughts of leaving the situation that he was in. But when God called him and He said, "I need you to get over here," he just went. He did what he needed to do. That is what being able to use your left and your right hand is about. Because it is not going to all go according to the plan. We have got to be prepared for that. We have got to be flexible. We cannot just melt down because things are not quite going our way. "Well, this was supposed to be my job. This is supposed to be what I am supposed to do." That is fine. "I need so and so to do this right now, because I need you to go and do this." We have got to be able to just adjust and do what we need to do while we are at camp that week.

III. Separated Unto the Lord

All right, let us move on to the third thing. The third thing is in 1 Chronicles 12:8.

1 Chronicles 12:8

And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the holds to the wilderness, men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

Now you could preach a whole message out of that verse alone, but I want to focus on the first thing it says. It says, "they separated themselves unto David." So the next thing that we need to be is we need to be separated. We need to be separated from this world. Separated from this world unto the Lord. If I did not mention it already, David, of course, in this story and throughout the Bible, is a picture and a type of Jesus Christ. So when it says they were "separated unto David," that is us needing to be separated unto the Lord.

The Bible tells us we have a principle that says we need to be in the world but not of the world. You cannot fully isolate yourself from the world. If you do that, you are never going to reach anybody. You are never going to be able to be used of God. But we are to insulate ourselves from the world. I have to live and breathe and walk through this world on a daily basis, but I still need to be separated from the world itself. Not living like the world does. Not abiding by the mentality and the principles and the thought processes that the world has, because those are all straight out of the pit of hell.

2 Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

So we know that we are in a spiritual warfare. We have talked about it already. He says, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life." That is the biggest problem that most Christians have. Maybe the biggest problem that all Christians have is that we entangle ourselves with this world. We entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life. Right there in the same book, a few chapters later, Paul references somebody. It is in 2 Timothy 4:10.

2 Timothy 4:10

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.

Ultimately, that is the problem that we have. When you find a Christian that walks away from the Lord, walks away from their faith, walks away from what they believe, and goes back into the world, it is because they love the world more than they love Christ. They love the world more than they love the Word of God, and more than they love the things of God, and more than they love being accountable to the Bible and to those things. That is what we have to fight against. That is going to be the biggest problem that we have.

Now listen, like I said, we have to live in this world. We have to go get jobs, and we have to work those jobs so we can pay the bills and so we can support our ministry, so we can put food on our table, and obviously, we have to do those things. But God does not want us sacrificing our relationship with Him and our walk with Him and our service to Him to try to climb some ladder and try to make the most money that we can possibly make and try to live in the biggest house and drive the fanciest car and own a boat on a lake. If you have any of those things, I am not saying that there is anything wrong with that if it is balanced out and it is not your sole priority. But when a Christian makes that their sole goal in life, that becomes a problem. That is when you get entangled with the affairs of this life.

I had a boss one time who said that a boat is actually an acronym that stands for "Break Out Another Thousand." He is like, "Do not ever buy a boat, because all you do is just pour money into it, because every time you turn around, you are spending more money to fix something on it." Look, I will be honest, I would love to have a boat. I think they are fun. We go down to the lake trip once a year, and we have a good time. But I am never going to have a boat, and that is fine. But you cannot make that your focus, because you get entangled with that stuff. You get entangled with all of the things that come along with it.

God does not want us to be seeking after those things. God wants us seeking after riches in heaven, right? Set your affections on things above. The Bible says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." That is really what it comes down to. It is asking yourself, "Where is your treasure? What do you truly value? What are the things that are really important to you?" Do you sit around and worry about losing the things that you have? Because if you do, that tells you, that is your treasure. Your treasure are those things. Let me tell you, do not tempt God to take those things away from you, because if He needs to, He will, to try to get a hold of you.

God blesses us with things. He gives us blessings all of the time, but He does not want them to become our sole focus. He does not want them to be the things that we entangle ourselves with. He does not want us to become like Demas, where we love this present world more than we love Him, and we get caught up in the things of the world, and we get entangled with the affairs of this life, so that we cannot serve God. We need to be wholly separated, wholly dedicated unto the Lord. As we come into this camp next month, that is where we need to be. We cannot be thinking about things that are not related to the task and the job at hand, because the devil will try to come in and distract you with anything and everything that he possibly can. But if you are not worried about those things, if you are not tied into those things, if you are not solely focused on those things of the world, then the devil does not have anything that he can impact you with. So we need to be separated unto the Lord.

IV. Understanding the Times

Now let us look at our fourth thing. Turn over to 1 Chronicles 12:32.

1 Chronicles 12:32

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.

So the fourth thing that we need to have is that we need to have an understanding of the times. If we are going to be ready, if we are going to fight this battle, if we are going to be successful at this camp, we need to have understanding of the times. Now I see this as a two-fold thing. I am going to talk about both of them.

- Two Passages That Pulls it all Together...
- Two Passages That Pulls it all Together...

V. Not of Double Heart and Keeping Rank

Ephesians 4:3, hold on a second, I feel like I might have got ahead of myself. I sure did. We will get to that in a second. Let us get to our fifth point here. 1 Chronicles 12:33 and 12:38.

1 Chronicles 12:33

Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank, and were not of double heart.

1 Chronicles 12:38

All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.

So the next thing that we need to talk about, it says that they were "not of double heart" and they "could keep rank."

James 1:8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

We cannot afford to have any kind of a divide. We cannot be of a double heart. We cannot be double-minded. We have to be solely focused on one thing, a sole purpose, and we are going to get to that on the next point. But everybody has got a job to do at this camp, and we need to be able to keep rank. It says these men could keep rank.

Now in any kind of an army, in any military situation, chain of command is absolutely vital for the success of an army or any kind of an organization like that. It makes me think of a movie, one of my favorite movies. If you have ever talked to me about movies, I have probably talked to you about this movie. It is called **A Few Good Men**. Most of you have probably seen it. If you have not, put it on your list because I am just telling you it is phenomenal. It is the best movie Tom Cruise ever made. I love **Top Gun** and all that stuff, but **A Few Good Men**. Anyway, most people, even if you have not seen it, you know about the Jack Nicholson monologue at the end when he is on the stand, Colonel Jessup, and the whole, "You want me on that wall, you need me on that wall," right? But there is another part of that monologue that I love where he says, "We follow orders, son. We follow orders or people die." It is just that simple.

When it comes to the ministry, when it comes to this church, when it comes to this camp especially, people probably are not going to die if we do not follow orders. Even though I do not know, Dave and Sam sometimes worry me with the obstacle course that they built. One time, a couple of years ago, they said they were adding like this ramp thing. I was like, "Oh, that sounds good." Sam was talking to me about it. He said, "Yeah, it is probably going to be like eight feet high." I am like, "Okay, cool." Then I show up to camp, and it is like 20 feet high. I am like, "Oh my gosh, what are you, you guys are going to kill somebody." Then I am going to be in a lot of trouble. Nobody is probably going to die, but spiritually, guys, spiritually, some people could die if we do not, if we are not able to keep rank. If we are not able to do the job and follow that chain of command.

Everybody needs to know their role. Everybody needs to stay in their lane. Listen, we have way too many people come into this camp to have anybody step out on their own and think, "You know, I think I know a better way to do this." And so, "I am going to do it, I am going to do it this way." There is a reason behind, you know, basically everything that we do at the camp. We meet and talk and discuss and make decisions about pretty much everything that is done there.

So there is reasoning behind it. It starts from Bob all the way down. He is ultimately as the pastor of our church, everything gets run up through me, through him. So it is not for you to go out on your own and say, "I think we should be doing something this way," because you do not understand what went into the decision-making process to put that in place in the first place. So we have got to be able to do that.

This is not about a power trip. This is not about how, "Well, I need to be in charge, and everybody needs to listen to what I say." It is not that. It is about everybody is reporting to somebody. We have got to make sure that everybody is doing what they are supposed to do. It is about having unity within our group. I mentioned this earlier. Ephesians 4:3, this is a verse that I shared with all of the Timothy workers that went on our lake trip when we were down there. I shared this verse, and it says:

Ephesians 4:3

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I pointed out the fact that obviously we know, God spends a lot of time talking about unity, and especially in Ephesians 4. We know how important unity is. We know that that is how the devil wants to attack the church as he divides, right? He wants to come in and divide brother against brother, and he wants to create problems within the body of Christ that way. He says, "Endeavouring to keep the unity." Endeavouring means that there is effort involved in it. It does not just happen. It is not something you can just pray about, even though it is something you should pray about. But it takes an action on your part to keep that unity.

Sometimes it takes you swallowing your pride in a certain situation to be able to keep the unity. Sometimes it takes you being the bigger person in a situation to make something right, even if it was not really your fault that it got out of whack in the first place. It is "endeavouring to keep that unity." We have to actively work at it. It really comes down to the importance of this about being able to keep rank. It is about trust.

I do not know if you guys have ever seen this video. There is a man, I do not even know who his name is. He is one of these corporate trainers, gives a lot of talks. But I saw a video once where he was sharing, he sat down with the head of training for SEAL Team Six. Obviously, we all know the Navy SEALs is, people will argue, okay, but it is if not the most, it is one of the couple of elite, most elite special forces units in the world, okay? There is no arguing that. So it is incredible the things that they do. Then SEAL Team Six is like the best of the best. They are the elite unit within the SEALs, which is hard to even fathom, okay? But that is SEAL Team Six.

So he was talking to the head of training for SEAL Team Six. He says, "How do you decide who gets into this unit?" What he said, he said is really interesting. He drew out a graph. I do not know if I could draw it, but there is no marker. But you guys have seen the graph, right? So you have a vertical axis and a horizontal axis. On the one side, he wrote "trust," and on our "performance," okay? And on the bottom, he wrote "trust." He said, basically, everybody falls somewhere in one of these quadrants. Now, up here, you have high trust, high performance. That is who you want in any kind of an organization. You want somebody who can get the job done,

who can do it right, but they have a high level of trust. The ones in the lower quadrant down here, low trust, low performance, you do not go anywhere near them, okay?

But the interesting question came up is determining between somebody who falls in the high performance, but low trust, versus somebody who is in the low performance, high trust, or maybe even medium performance, high trust. What he said was, they will always take the person who is low performance or medium performance and high trust over the person who is high performance and low trust. Most companies, most groups, they get that backwards. They solely focus on performance, but they overlook how destructive it can be to have people within your group that you cannot trust. Because in a battle situation like SEAL Team Six, right, you have got to, you are literally putting your life in the hands of the people around you.

We have to look at it the same way. Spiritually speaking, we are trusting each other with our lives spiritually and to get this job done and to make sure that we are trying to get done. We have to know, I have got to know that the person next to me, you do not have to be able to preach like Bob can preach. I just need to know that I can trust you to do what you need to do and not break the unity of what we are trying to get done. You do not have to be the best in the world at opening up your Bible and giving a devotion. You do not have to be the best at those things. But what we need to be the best at is maintaining unity and is being able to keep rank. It is absolutely, vitally important.

VI. A Singular Goal

All right, we have got a couple more things to go through, and we are going to be done. Number six, 1 Chronicles 12:38. Again, we will read it again.

1 Chronicles 12:38

All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king.

The sixth thing that we need is we have to have a singular goal, which for them, it was to make David king. For us, it is to make the Lord Jesus Christ king, not only in our own lives, but in the lives of the kids that are going to be at this camp. A singular goal, that one goal for both the kids that are unsaved and the kids that are saved, it is the same, it manifests differently. The unsaved kids need to trust Christ as their Savior. The saved kids need to put the Lord on the throne in their lives. But it is still the same goal. It is about making David king. It is about making Jesus Christ king. It is the only thing that matters.

You have probably heard before, "The main thing is the main thing." We have to keep that. That is what keeps us focused. That is what helps us keep the unity, by the way, is that we are all focused on the same thing. When we are all focused on the same task, we do not get as upset about who is doing what. Because the only thing that we care about is getting to the goal. That is one of the things that has made the Kansas City Chiefs as successful as they have been over the last few years, with multiple Super Bowl appearances, three Super Bowl championships. It is because those guys on that team, I am not saying they are 100% perfect at it, but most of those

guys on that team, they are more important with reaching the goal of getting to and winning the Super Bowl than they care about their individual statistics or anything else. They are able to focus on that goal, and that is what keeps that team together. Because when the bullets start flying and things start going haywire, you have got to have your focus on that. You have got to have your focus on that goal.

Anybody that has ever done any kind of manual labor, and probably everybody in this room has done something like that, you guys understand, if you have ever been working on something and you have hurt yourself, you cut your hand on something when you are in the middle of, you know, you are building something. How many times have you seen where you do not even realize that you cut your hand until 10 minutes later you look down, and there is like blood on your shirt, and there is blood on your shorts, and like, "What in the world?" Then you look down, and it is like coming out of your thumb, and then once you see it, then all of a sudden your thumb starts hurting, right? There is a principle to be learned in that. You are so focused on the job you are doing, you do not notice the injury, you do not feel it, because your mind is focused on the task at hand. It is focused on that sole purpose.

That is how we have got to be at camp. When we have our sole focus on the Lord Jesus Christ and establishing Him as King in the hearts and minds of all of those kids at that camp, and making sure that He has that same position in our own heart and our own mind, then when the little things happen that will disrupt you, that will throw you off your game, you will not even notice them. The little things where somebody says something that hurts your feelings, or you feel like you are being asked to do too much, or you feel like nobody is saying thank you enough to you, or you feel left out of something, or whatever it may be, when you are focused on the job, when you are focused on the goal, and the main thing is the main thing, you do not even notice it. You do not even notice it, but what happens when you start looking at it? When you look at your thumb and you see it all of a sudden, you are like, "Man, that really hurts." That is true also. Once you get your eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ and you put them on the problem, then it is all you can think about, because now it hurts really bad. It is because you took your eyes off of the Lord.

You guys remember the story where when Jesus was walking on water, and Peter wanted to walk out to Him, and He says, "Come on out." So he comes out, and he is looking at the Lord, and he is literally walking on the water, but there are storms, and as he looks around and he starts panicking a little bit about what is happening in the water, he takes his eyes off the Lord, and what happens? He starts to sink in the water. Again, that is a picture of this same thing. You keep your eyes focused on the Lord, and the devil is not going to be able to come in and disrupt anything with whatever he may throw at you. We have got to stay focused on that.

How do we do it with the kids? It is very simple. John 12:32, Jesus is speaking here, He says:

John 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Our job that week is simply to do this. It is simply to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will draw those kids to Him. Back at the beginning of John, John 1:35-37, John the Baptist is walking here, and it says:

John 1:35-37

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

This is a simple little story, okay? But it is so profound because you think about John here, he, excuse me, he could have said anything. I mean, think about all the different times we have an opportunity to say something to somebody and the dumb stuff that comes out of our mouth, the stupid things that we talk about. What does John say to them? He says, "Behold the Lamb of God." His sole focus was on declaring the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is all he says, and then what happens? It says, "The disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus." Notice at the beginning it says, "two of his disciples," they were originally John's disciples, but he points them in the right direction, and of all the things he could have said, he says, "Behold the Lamb of God," and it says then they followed Jesus. Guys, it is not rocket science. It is as simple as that. Our job is simply to point to the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "Behold the Lamb of God." He says, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." That is all we have got to do. But if our focus is not on the Lord Jesus Christ, then we are not going to be able to do that. We are not going to be able to lift, we are not going to be able to point anybody in His direction because we are not pointed in His direction. So we have got to get ourselves there, and we have got to make sure that we have that perfect heart to make David king over all Israel, to make the Lord Jesus Christ king over our lives and over our hearts.

VII. Every Job Matters

I want to close out with, I want to look at one last thing, and this was something that, I have gone through this passage before, but I have never looked at it exactly in this context, and when I was going through this, I was preparing this message, I saw this verse, and I just, it jumped out at me, and I just, I loved it because it is perfect for where we are at. Look at 1 Chronicles 12:39-40.

1 Chronicles 12:39

And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them.

1 Chronicles 12:40

Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, and meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel.

Every job, every person is valuable in this event, right? We say this every year, but I have never seen it in such a perfect way here. Look at 1 Chronicles 12:40. He says, "They brought bread on asses and on camels and on mules and oxen." There is my grunt crew right there. Sorry for calling you guys asses, but, but your camels and your mules and your oxen, you are doing the work, your beasts of burden, okay? It sometimes is a thankless job, but it is a job that makes camp go.

Then you see, and what were they doing? It says there were men, it says that they were eating food that their brethren had prepared for them. It says they had meat, meals, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins. There is my kitchen crew making the food for everybody. Obviously, it is not just them. It is my nursing team. It is my craft team. It is my handful of folks that work the chuck wagon that are making sure we keep these kids loaded up on snacks and sugar all day and keeping them energized.

But look, guys, this is what I want you to see. This is what I want you to understand. God is spending this entire chapter laying out all of these men, all of the various troops that came to make David King and are ready to fight this battle. It says they are "ready armed to the war." It says they came with a "perfect heart." They could "keep rank." We talked through it all. God did not have to put these last two verses in this chapter, okay? They almost do not even fit except for the fact that they do fit perfectly because the folks that he is talking about at the end of this chapter are no less important than everybody that he was talking about that was coming through fighting the battle.

The same way that we want you guys to understand every year that the people that are in the chuck wagon and that are taking care of our kids from a nursing standpoint, my scoreboard team, my grunt crew, my craft room, my kitchen crew, everybody else, my photographer, everybody else that is doing the roles, Chris doing all the sound for us, all of those things are the things that make camp go. Without those things, we have no camp. We have no ability to bring these kids in and sit them down and open up the Word of God and preach to them the gospel.

The counselors that we have, when we first started this several years ago, the counselors had to do, everybody did everything. We did not have that many adults, we did not have that many kids, but we did not have that many adults that went to the camp. So everybody pulled double duty. You had to be a counselor and grunt crew at the same time. You were setting up the obstacle course while you were trying to figure out how to corral the kids during free time and all of those different things.

Now, praise the Lord, we have enough people, and we have the manpower and the ability to let the counselors spend 24 hours a day focused on those kids, and they get to pour themselves into those kids, and not all of us get to do that, but that is okay because you guys are just as important as they are because without you doing the job that you are doing, without you being solely focused on it, being able to keep rank, keeping that unity, and doing what you are doing, they do not have the ability to do what they are doing with the kids, and we say it every year, and I am going to continue to say it every year because it is so vital for us to go in and understand that.

There are no small jobs. There is no menial work, okay? Everything that is done is something that needs to be done, and anything and everything that happens as a result of this camp, we all take part in the joy. Notice how it says at the very end, it says, "for there was joy in Israel." We are going to be able to experience true joy at the end of this camp when we look back and we see what God has done and knowing that everybody got to play a part in it. Ultimately, the Lord Jesus Christ is the one that does the work, right? We know that God is the one that gives the increase, but He gives us the ability to play a part in it, and we can all participate and be a part of that joy because every single person, every single role matters.

So do not come into camp thinking that, "Well, I am just on the grunt crew, so everything that Danny was preaching about today does not really apply to me." It absolutely applies to you. It absolutely applies to you because while, when you are setting up the obstacle course and tearing it down, you are not with the kids right there. You are with the kids and interacting with them and helping them when they are running that obstacle course, and then when you are outside of that and you have a little bit of free time, you have a chance to interact with those kids and see what they are doing and go into the gym and play dodgeball with them and play basketball with them, and you have that same opportunity to show them that like, "Hey, every single adult that you see at this camp is here because we love you, because we are here for you." Do not discredit the kind of impact that you are going to have the ability to make with these kids. Do not look down on whatever role you have, and do not miss the opportunity, and do not come into camp unprepared and not ready to do the job, and so God can have His way and accomplish what He wants to accomplish.

So our theme is "TikTok, TikTok," and I will say it to you guys, "TikTok, TikTok," we have got about a month left, and we have got work to do, but we cannot get so wrapped up in the work that we are doing to get ready for camp that we forget about the most important work that we need to do. Hopefully, I was clearing up today, and hopefully, you understand, and hopefully, you are able to take some things out of this message and understand that the real work that you need to be doing this week or this month, over this next month, is working on yourself, making sure that you are ready to be everything that you need to be that week, and the other work that needs to be done, yeah, absolutely has to be done, but it is secondary. Prioritize yourself where you are with the Lord. Like I said, do not come to camp hoping to get your fire lit, okay? I want you coming to camp with your fire lit so you can help light somebody else's fire, all right?

I appreciate you guys. I love you guys. We are going to close in a word of prayer, and we will be finished. Heavenly Father, again, we thank You and we praise You for the Lord Jesus. I thank You for the people in this church. You know, it is amazing that we are able to have a camp the way that we are and have so many people that want to come and volunteer and want to help out. I am sure that there are churches that are the same size as our church that would struggle to find 10 or 15 people that would be willing to take a week of their vacation time and come out in the middle of the summer and do the things that these folks are going to do, and I am so thankful for them, and we are so thankful for just the opportunity to do it, Lord.

But I pray that we will take the things that we talked about this morning, and we will truly take them to heart, that we will truly examine ourselves, and we will spend this next month really

looking at where we are, Lord, really looking at where we are with You. Where are our priorities? Are we truly focused on establishing You on the throne in our own hearts, in our own lives? Making sure that You are the King of our lives and that we are not getting wrapped up in this world and that we are solely focused on You. Are we going to come in with the attitude of being able to keep rank and keeping our attitudes in check and maintaining the unity, Lord? Are we going to be flexible and adaptable to be able to handle the changes that come our way, and are we going to have the urgency, Lord, that we need to have? And understanding the times and the seasons and understanding that what we are facing this week.

I pray that we will look at ourselves, that we will do what we need to do, put the work in so that when we show up to camp in a month that we are ready to do whatever You would have us to do, Lord, and then we pray for the kids, we pray for the applications that still need to come in. If there is anybody out there that is on the fence, Lord, I pray that You will push them in the right direction and that You will get them there at this camp, and we are so excited, Lord, to see what You are going to do, and we will give You all the honor and the glory for it. We love You, and again, we ask all of these things in Jesus' name, amen.

All right, do not forget, give me your softball applications. I am going to be hanging out right here. Give me the camp applications. Come sign up for 4th of July. Sign up for Jeffrey's List, and we will see you guys in a week.