

**Message: Seek the Lord**  
**Series: Better Together**  
**By Senior Pastor Tom Harrison**  
**1 Chronicles 28:9-19**

**September 22, 2019**

David lined up his son, Solomon, to succeed him as king. He wanted his son to seek God with all his heart and mind. Loving God is the core component for a person of faith. David experienced what happened when his heart turned from God and other affairs caught him. Yet, David ended on a high note. He tried to share that understanding with Solomon.

Every wise leader understands the importance of passing the baton to the next generation. Hezekiah was a good king, yet, he dropped the baton of faith. When told his pride would cause future judgment that would devastate his nation, he callously shrugged his shoulders. *“For he thought, ‘Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?’”* (2 Kings 20:19)

Like the 3 kings, David, Solomon and Hezekiah, we are so easily distracted. Paul insisted followers of Jesus are to have His mind. He also compared the Christian life to running a race. We are in a marathon, not a sprint.

APPLICATION: It only takes one generation to blow it, so that the next generation is short-changed. Note in our reading from 1 Chronicles the blessing David confers on Solomon is conditional. IF is a tiny word but big doors swing on small hinges. David warns his son that his life and kingdom can go in one of two directions. It is all about the “if” of verse 9. We must *“be careful now,”* too. Generations have invested in us so we might be wise stewards of our faith. We do not have unlimited opportunities to do good. Asbury’s leadership believes “Better Together” is our moment - a time worth seizing.

Intro: David was king of Israel for 40 years. He’s probably about 70 at this point. He’s had **success** and had significant **valleys**, but he wants to leave a legacy of significance by setting up his son, Solomon to build a place for his people to worship the Lord. This is a critical moment for Israel.

Last week we read **verses 1-8** where David spoke to his trusted leaders and “mighty men” to tell them of the building project he desired (but was disqualified by the Lord because David was a man of war). However, he can pass on his dream to his son, Solomon. This text is about the handoff from father to son. There are really 2 parts to this: 1.) The **spiritual** preparation 2.) Planning for the **building**

**1 Chronicles 28:9-19:**

*"And you, **Solomon** my son, **know** the God of your father and **serve** him with a **whole** heart and with a willing **mind**, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you **seek** him, he will be found by you, but if you **forsake** him, he will cast you off forever. <sup>10</sup> **Be careful now, for the Lord has chosen you** to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it." <sup>11</sup> Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; <sup>12</sup> and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the Lord, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; <sup>13</sup> for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the Lord; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the Lord, <sup>14</sup> the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service, <sup>15</sup> the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service, <sup>16</sup> the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables, <sup>17</sup> and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each; <sup>18</sup> for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord. <sup>19</sup> All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the Lord, all the work to be done according to the plan.*

v9 **know** the God of your father David wants his son to share in his spiritual legacy. That's how he orders this. Before he talks about what Solomon needed to DO, he wanted to talk about what he wanted Solomon to KNOW. David wanted Solomon to know God. What's it mean to "know" God? It is not "knowing **about**" God – but is a personal relationship. How do we know God?

1.) We begin by knowing the **scriptures** – God's word reveals His nature/character. God is good and just. He forgives and loves. He is also the judge. We even see God's judgment with David – he was disqualified from building the temple. It will be called "Solomon's Temple," not "David's Temple." **continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17** Note "from childhood." Others, with our family and the family of God, help us.

2.) We can know God because of the **spirit** of God. David's prayer was: ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.*** Psalm 51:10-12

David describes 3 things that follow when people know God.

1.) They **serve** Him. Jesus said the same, *"the son of man came not to be served, but to serve."*

Satan's final temptation of Jesus was: ***Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"*** Matthew 4:8-10 WE SERVE WHO

OR WHAT WE WORSHIP. Our greatest fear should not be of failure but in succeeding in something that really doesn't matter.

***No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*** Matthew 6:24

According to Jesus, people who know God will do at least 2 things: They will **worship**. Our 2019-20 strategic vision for Asbury is: *"Helping Others Follow Jesus by strengthening worship attendance."* People who know God worship. That means they will come to worship (I know not everyone can attend every week and there are reasons we know God would approve for missing – but it's important to get the family together. And we can also worship daily, too). They give **money**. Sometimes it's the wealthy people, like Zacchaeus or Barnabas; sometimes it's the poor woman putting in her "widow's mite" – a tiny coin. But knowing God and serving God, always lead to the next thing:

2.) They have a **heart** for God. David was referred to as "a man after God's own heart." This means he loved God. He had a deep **affection** for God. He was tender and gentle towards the Lord. He was an imperfect man who paid dearly for his sins of commission (Bathsheba and the census) and his sins of omission (failure to discipline his sons – especially Absalom). David loved God. The Psalms reflect this. I've heard it said that of the first 3 kings of Israel, Saul, David and Solomon, that Saul had NO heart for God; David had a WHOLE heart, and Solomon had HALF a heart ("lukewarm") for God.

3.) They have a **willing mind**. The word "plan" appears 4x in this text. David is preoccupied with planning. This guy is a warrior. He is a musician. He is a poet. He is affectionate. But he is also an architect, a structural engineer and an interior decorator.

I heard of a preacher who decided to forego any study the week ahead of his sermon – he decided he would just walk into the pulpit and turn to God and speak whatever the Holy Spirit put upon his heart. On that Sunday he went into the pulpit he stood up and sure enough, he heard God speak to him very clearly. He distinctly heard God said 3 words to him: “**YOU WERE LAZY.**” Relying on God is not the same thing as a lack of preparation. Disorder is not a spiritual gift. Order and discipline enhance, not replaces creativity. A lack of planning is not a spiritual conviction. It is presumptuous, not faith.

People who know God have great energy for God. We know and serve God. We have an engaged heart and a willing mind for the things of God.

David has 2 final instructions for his son:

- 1.) **Seek** Him.... Don't **forsake** Him (you lose) (Jesus said much the same: *Seek first the KOG....*” Mt. 6:33. the KOG is “upside down.” It's natural)
- 2.) You are **chosen** – you've a job to do = build a house for the Lord. Be strong. Do it.

I believe God has chosen ME/US for this time.