

General Intro:

Good morning everyone. Welcome. It is great to be here together today, It is great to be worshipping God and listening to what God is saying to us.

This Sundays message is the last in this series from the life of David.

It mostly from 1 Chronicles chapters 22 and 28.

As I begin I will pray

prayer

Story David - temple....

King David was starting to get old, the years ahead of him were far fewer than the years that had already been. And when that happens, people often start thinking about their legacy, what they are going to leave behind, their children and the things that they wanted to do but never were able to accomplish.

For King David, there was something that weighed on his heart. Years before when he was younger and more active, David had wanted to build a temple. A magnificent house for God.

He had made plans, he had started setting aside resources, money and materials. A huge quantity of iron for nails. A pile of bronze that was greater than the scales could weigh, and so many logs of cedar that you could hardly count them.

This wasn't like going down to Mitre 10 and buying some building materials. This was like buying all of Mitre 10 as well as all of Tumu timber all of their stores . David was all set to build a temple, a magnificent house for God.

But then, just when David was about to begin God spoke to him. God said to David.

You've killed too many people, fought too many wars to build a temple. You are not the one to honor me by building a sanctuary—you've been responsible for too much killing, too much bloodshed. But you will have a son Solomon, he is the one that I have chosen for this. He will be a quiet and peaceful man, and I will calm his enemies down on all sides. His very name will speak peace and I'll give peace and rest under his rule. He will be the one to build a sanctuary in my honor. He'll be my royal adopted son and I'll be his father; and I'll make sure that the authority of his kingdom over Israel lasts forever.'

God stopped David from building the temple. And David listened to God.

And then time passed, year after year passed by.

That message from God had happened when David was younger, before Solomon was born. And David had listened and obeyed, and David continued to listen and obey.

It was a message that had weighed on David's heart, something he had held close over the years.

And now, now as David was getting older, now as he was entering into those twilight years. Now was the time for him to pass on the message, the vision, the call was passed on to Solomon. David was concerned that Solomon was young and inexperienced, that is often the concern that parents have for their children. That is often how we feel when there are new, younger people taking on roles of responsibility. But there is a time when that needs to happen.

And when it does, that is when we need to be at our best. So that they have every chance of success.

So what did David do, what steps did he take as he passed on this challenge from God to Solomon,

Knowledge

Well firstly David gave Solomon the knowledge, Knowledge about the vision that God had. What God had in store for Solomon to do. The knowledge that this was not just a plan from David. It was from God.

God had called Solomon to build the temple. God had let David know, but it was God, not David who had called Solomon. That was important information for Solomon to have, important knowledge that David shared.

This was the time when David told his son that he was the one God had chosen to build the temple. This was the time that David told him that God would be with him as he did what God had called him to do. David told Solomon about the vision the plans that God had.

Prayer

And then David prayed for Solomon. He prayed that God that would grant him discretion and understanding.

The wisdom and knowledge, the good sense that would be required, that would help Solomon lead the country, to lead them in following God.

Wisdom, knowledge, understanding is so important.

And praying is doing something.

David prayed for Solomon

Advice

- And David gave Solomon advice. Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed. The encouragement that God had given Joshua when he had taken over from Moses as a leader of the people of Israel as they were about to

enter the promised land. This advice was there for Solomon as well. Be strong and of good courage. That is great advice when starting something new.

Resources

- And David did more as well. He told Solomon about the resources he had set aside. Gold, silver, bronze, iron, timber. And the workers who were there to help. There were resources there for Solomon. He did not need to do things on his own. His father had made the connections, starting to put things in order. Yes Solomon needed to do more, but there was a good start. There were things that had been put in place.

Encouragement

And David encouraged Solomon. He let him know that God was with him.

“Is not the Lord your God with you? Has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord and his people. Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Go and build the sanctuary of the Lord God so that the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the Lord.”

What wonderful encouragement for Solomon. Looking to God, looking to what he could see around him and looking forward to what would happen.

Repetition

And then David did not just do this once, there are three speeches recorded, so that means it was at least three times that David reminded Solomon about this. At least three times that he gave Solomon knowledge, prayer, advice, told him about resources and encouraged him.

And David used those times to let everyone else know as well that he was passing on the responsibility of building the temple to Solomon, to let people know of the faithfulness of God. That this was not some scheme Solomon was dreaming up,

this was what God had called him to do and that David was whole heartedly behind it.

And David give Solomon his final words.

“And you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve him with single mind and willing heart; for the LORD searches every mind, and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will abandon you forever. Take heed now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary; be strong, and act.”

David passed his dream, his vision, his legacy on to his son Solomon.

Time passed. David died.

It wasn't till that happened that Solomon had an encounter with God. David wasn't around to hear about. I am sure he would have wished it happened earlier, but it wasn't till then.

And what an encounter that was.

God met with Solomon and said to him, "what do you want from me, ask me", and Solomon responded

"Give me now wisdom and knowledge as I come and go before this people, for who on his own is capable of leading your glorious people."

If David had still been alive, he would have been so proud of Solomon,

God answered Solomon, “This is what has come out of your heart: You didn't grasp for money, wealth, fame, and the doom of your enemies; you didn't even ask for a long life. You asked for wisdom and knowledge so you could govern well my people over whom I've made you king. Because of this, you get what you

asked for—wisdom and knowledge. And I'm presenting you the rest as a bonus—money, wealth, and fame beyond anything the kings before or after you had or will have."

This was the encounter Solomon had with God.

And after that happened Solomon started to build the temple. A temple that David had wanted to build, that he would have loved to be around to see, but something that he needed to leave for Solomon to do.

Now just in case you think wow - David was a model parent. he did everything right. I wish my parents had been like that.

I have to mention David's other children and some of that mess that was there. David had at least 14 other children. These days we would call it a blended family. There were stepchildren from different mothers. Some of the children were born during David's years in exile - where he was an absent Dad.

There were some huge family issues among his children including rape, and then a revenge murder as well as a son who was killed trying to overthrow his father. There was some extreme things that happened. If that was all we knew of David, we would say that as a parent he was an absolute disaster.

But this, this was David in the later years of his life. This was David doing things right. Showing all of the wisdom and maturity that he had gained, this was David listening to God. This was him passing on a vision, because that was what God had told him to do.

And it was Solomon showing wisdom and discernment, being a person of peace and not trying to grasp things before it was the right time.

This vision of building the temple was from God and it was for Solomon. David knew it, Solomon knew it, and then everyone else knew it. God's presence and wisdom was woven through it from beginning to end. There were prayers, there was advice, there were resources, there was encouragement, other people knew. And those things happened several times. David let go of what he wanted to do and trusted in God. He trusted that when he wasn't around anymore that it would still happen. And it did.

Now for us, today, dreams, legacies, visions things that are passed on from one generation to the next can still cause problems.

As children become adults, interactions between them and their parents are not always smooth.

We have our hopes and dreams, and they have theirs as well. And sometimes the two sets do collide. My father would have loved to have a son to take on his business as a Cabinet Maker, but that wasn't going to happen.

And for all of us there comes a point when we realise that we might not do the things that we once hoped and dreamed that we would. It happens with all of us. It happens with our parents as well.

It might start with realising that we won't be a sporting star.

But then there might be other dreams that we have had - that now as we look at our future, we might think - I am not sure if those dreams, those visions are going to happen.

At times people try and live out our their dreams, the things that they wished that they had done through their children.

And at times children might want to do their own thing and not do things the way that their parents would have done them.

I can understand both things happening, I can understand the tensions and the misunderstandings that often take place.

So what can we do?

Well if you have a dream, a vision from God and it is for you. Then do not give up on it.

People who are older have achieved great things. For example

Laura Ingalls Wilder who wrote the little house on the Prairie did not publish her first book till she was 64.

Famous artist Anna Moses didn't start painting till she was 76.

Younger people might achieve things, but older people can as well.

If the dream is from God do not give up on it.

And then we will also come across others who are younger. People who are younger but who have a God given vision or dream, that we might catch sight of. They may be our children or they may be someone we are like an Aunt or Uncle to.

It might be similar to one we had or may be something different.

It might be to become a teacher, a nurse, a doctor, a writer, a builder, a politician an inventor or something completely different.

And we can bless them.

Bless them like David blessed Solomon.

With knowledge, with prayer, with advice, there might even be some resources or connections that we can help them with and we encourage them.

Those are things we can do, those are things that we can keep on doing.

Now they might do things in a completely different way to how we would do it.

I think that David would have wanted to stick his nose in, to interfere so much that he actually couldn't be alive while Solomon was building the temple. If we don't want that to happen for us, at times we might need to hold back in what we say and do.

We might not see the fulfilment of the dream....

We might not see then have an encounter with God.

But God is faithful.

God is trustworthy.

And we can trust in the faithfulness of God.

Amen.

Let us pray.