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Stand Alone

Title: What is Next?

Text: 1 Chronicles 29, 1 Chronicles 22:7, Psalm 127:1

Big Idea: Because God is faithful, our response to what is next should be faithfulness

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Good morning, it is great to be with you all today!

If you have your Bibles, go ahead and meet me in 1 Chronicles 29.

Any time you walk through a season of transition, there's one question everyone is asking: "What's next?" What is next for our church? What is next for our family? What is next for our future?

And let's be honest, there is a mix of emotions that come with that question. There is excitement, anticipation, but also uncertainty. As a church, we are going through one of those moments right now. We are walking toward a new building, stepping into a new season of ministry, and we are making necessary changes to prepare us for the future.

So, naturally, the question is: **"What's next?"**

But here is what I want you to see this morning, as we celebrate what God has been doing and look to what's next, the most important question is not, "What is next?", but *how will we respond* to what God is doing next. God is on the move, and we want to be a part of what He is doing.

SETTING THE SCENE

1 Chronicles 29 is a moment just like this. David is at the end of his leadership as king. Solomon, his son, is about to step into leadership. They are getting ready to mark a new season in the life of Israel by building a new temple, and it appears the future is wide open.

Everything is changing for them. But the real issue in the text is not the change itself, but the response of God's people to that change. And what we see in this chapter is this:

1. God Is Faithful in Every Season

Look at 29:1: *“And David the king said to all the assembly, ‘Solomon my son, whom the Lord alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God.’”*

Here is what David recognizes: God is the one who raises up leaders. God is the one who gives vision. God is the one who keeps His promises. And it is God who makes it all happen...even when it is not as expected or fits in our plans.

This was true for David. In 1 Chronicles 22:7, David has set his heart on being the one to build the temple and reuniting God’s people. Yet, look what he tells his son Solomon, *“My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.’”*

David fully planned on being the guy to build the temple, but the Lord had other plans. And notice how David responds from v. 1? He doesn’t pout or feel sorry for himself, he leans into the Lord, trusts Him, and follows in obedience.

Remember this: God’s faithfulness doesn’t always look like our plans – but His plans always fulfill His purposes.

This is our story, too! There have been plenty of times in our 170-year history when we made plans, and God redirected them. Yet, every time, He has been faithful to this church. He has provided, He has led us, and He has sustained us. And because He was faithful then, we can trust Him with what is next.

So, if God is faithful... then the question becomes, how do His people respond?

2. Faithful People Move ALL-IN

In 1 Chronicles 29:1-5, David casts a vision for Israel’s future – to build a temple for the Lord. It is a big, bold vision that David knows he and many others will not get to see. Yet, David presents the vision anyway, and as the leader, he commits to resourcing that vision. Then, he calls the people to do the same. In v. 5, he asks the people: *“Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?”*

Now, don’t miss this: The vision that God has given to David is to build the temple, but the call is not just financial; it is spiritual. God’s vision is never just about what we give financially; it’s about giving God our full selves. David is not saying, “Who will fund this project?” He is saying, “Who will give themselves fully to the Lord?”

Because when God has your heart, He has everything. And when God gets your heart, everything else – your time, energy, resources, and your obedience are sure to follow.

And check this out: When God's people give themselves fully to the Lord, something powerful happens.

3. God Uses the Obedience of His People to Resource His Vision

Look at v. 6-8: *"Then the leaders of fathers' houses made their **freewill** offerings, as did the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God 5000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron. And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite."*

The leaders step up. The people follow. And they give generously to the vision.

But don't miss the most important part, here – it's not *what* they gave, it's *how* they gave. Look at v. 9: *"Then the people rejoiced because they had given **willingly**, for with **a whole heart** they offered **freely to the Lord**. David the king also rejoiced greatly."*

They gave willingly. They gave joyfully. They gave freely of their own will. You can always tell when God has someone's heart – because their response to Him is joyful, not reluctant to His call and challenge.

And you know what? We have seen this in real life.

Two and a half years ago, we stood in a moment just like this. I cast a vision for all of us to be ALL IN – all in with God, all in with one another, and all in for our community.

And a part of that vision required all of us to step out in faith to build a new facility that would position us to reach generations to come. I knew this would be risky – not because God wasn't faithful but because it required all of us to respond. Every single one of us!

And guess what? Like Israel, many of us showed up. Which leads us to this opportunity to:

4. Celebrate What God Has Done

Just like we saw in v. 9, we need to stop and celebrate what God has done.

Campaign success – This is cool - as of right now, we have been able to pay for 40% of the project in cash, and will be able to pay for 53% of the project in cash right now. We have capital financing available to us to complete the rest. But, if we continue to give over and above our operating budget, all of the cash goes directly to the project, lowering debt.

Growth – Worship attendance has doubled in the last four years, and we've added a service. Those attending our adult Bible studies on Sunday continue to grow. Ministries are growing. Baptisms continue to happen (we baptized 100 people last year alone).

Financial provision – We went from 38% to 82% actively giving to resource our vision. Our goal is to reach \$6 million this year in giving!!

New ministries launched – Tons of new ministries, including a residency program to train future pastors and church leaders, have been launched.

Construction progress – Construction is going well, and what a blessing! Take a look at this video to see what God has been up to with our project. **[Video]** We are on track to move into our new facility in the first quarter of 2027.

Church, God has been faithful. Let's take a moment and thank Him. [Pause for prayer].

But celebration without the right perspective can lead to pride... so, let's:

5. Remember To Whom It All Belongs

Look at v. 10: *"Therefore, David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: 'Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as our fathers were. Our days on earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own."*

Here is the point David is making through this prayer: Everything that we have belongs to God. Fast forward several years into the future, after building the temple to the

Lord, Solomon reflects back on the experience, and he writes, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, the workers labor in vain.” (Ps 127:1)*

The point here is to say: all glory to God. Yes, we gave. Yes, we showed up. Yes, we have worked hard. And will continue to do so, but unless God shows up, all effort and achievement is in vain.

All “success” that we have experienced – every life changed, every marriage restored, every person discipled, every dollar given... it is all a gift from God. We didn’t build this; God did. We just get to be a part of it.

So, if everything belongs to God...what does He want from us moving forward?

6. Be ALL IN with Him

As David hands the keys over to Solomon, he prays this over Israel in v. 18: *“O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the **hearts** of your people, and direct their **hearts** toward you. Grant Solomon my son a **whole heart**, that he make keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.”*

Notice the subject of this prayer – the heart. The future of God’s work is not a building; it’s about the hearts of God’s people. What God wants most from us is not our performance, but our wholehearted devotion to Him.

So, here is our challenge:

- Stay aligned with God – not a system, method, or preferences.
- Stay committed to the mission – to help all generations know and follow Jesus
- Trust the system – help people connect, grow, serve, multiply
- Stay generous – not giving to the church, but giving to God through the church

WHAT IS NEXT FOR US?

As we continue to prepare for the future, here are a few important steps:

New schedule:

Beginning August 16th, we will move to a new schedule.

		1st Service	2nd Service
Worship Service		9-10:15 am	10:30-11:45 am
Bible Study	8-8:45 am	9-10 am	10:45-11:45 am

This schedule creates space and opportunity, and helps us prepare for our new facility. Remember – this is not a perfect plan, but it is the *best* plan for the *most* people.

Updating Documents:

To be ready for our new space, we are updating all of our core documents. Currently, we are working on our bylaws. Once the draft has been done and reviewed by various groups, you will have an opportunity to see it and vote on it. Rest assured, we are not changing who we are, just updating documents to put us in the best place to accomplish our mission.

Transition Plan:

We are preparing for a smooth transition. We are creating fun ways for you to experience the new space, and at the same time, we are creating meaningful moments for you to say goodbye to this place that has meant so much to us, once we are ready to leave.

CONCLUSION

Church, as it was with David and all of Israel, so it is with us.

Our future is bright, and I believe that God has great things ahead. So, let’s stay aligned with Him. Stay committed to the mission. And stay generous with all He has given us.