**PREPARE THE WAY**

**A Departing Leader’s Last Appeal**

**October 16, 2022**

**God is in the business of calling people to go places they’ve never been before and attempt things they’ve never done before.**

“Achievement comes to someone when he is able to do great things for himself. Success comes when he empowers followers to do great things with him. Significance comes when he develops leaders to do great things for him. But a legacy is created only when a person puts his organization into the position to do great things without him.”—John Maxwell

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**Announce the vision.**

**Appeal for the pro-vision.**

*But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also****excel****in this grace of giving.* (2 Corinthians 8:7)

**God uses different leaders to accomplish different assignments.**

*David carried out God’s purpose while he lived. Then he died. He was buried with his people.* (Acts 13:36)

*Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced.  The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources, I have provided for the Temple of God: gold for the gold, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron, wood, alabaster, turquoise, stone and marble.* (1 Chronicles 29:1-2)

*Besides, in my devotion to the Temple of my God, I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver...* (1 Chronicles 29:3)

*Now, who is willing to consecrate himself to the Lord?* (1 Chronicles 29:5)

**God’s plan for His community is that it should be a community of the willing.**

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* (Matthew 6:21)

*The leaders of the families, the officers of the tribes of the Israelites, the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, the officials in charge of the King’s work gave willingly.* (1 Chronicles 29:6)

*The people rejoiced at the* ***willing*** *response of their leaders, for they had given, not just because the King made them give; they had given* ***freely and wholeheartedly*** *to the Lord. And David, the King, also rejoiced greatly.* (1 Chronicles 29:9)

*All these things I have given* ***willingly*** *and with honest intent, and now I have seen with joy how* ***willingly*** *your people here have given to you. Oh Lord God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever.* (1 Chronicles 29:17-18)

*Give what you have decided in your hearts to give. Not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

**They understood the difference between Stewardship and Ownership which is revealed in their prayers.**

*Praise be to You, oh Lord God of our father Israel from everlasting to everlasting. Yours oh Lord is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor.* *For* ***everything*** *in heaven and earth is Yours.* (1 Chronicles 29:10-11)

*The earth is the Lord’s and* ***everything*** *in it, the world, and all who live in it.* (Psalm 24:1)

*To the Lord your God belongs the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and* ***everything*** *in it.* (Deuteronomy10:14)

*Who has a claim against me that I must pay?* ***Everything*** *under heaven belongs to me.* (Job 41:11)

*I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is* ***mine****, and the cattle on a thousand hills.* *I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are* ***mine****.* *If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is* ***mine****, and all that is in it.* (Psalm 50:9-12)

*Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.* (1 Chronicles 29:11-13)

**I am promoting your forever glory and not protecting my fading glory.**

*But who am I, and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, God, and we’ve given You only what has come from Your hand.* (1 Chronicles 29:14)

**When God gives us the capacity to earn, it can quickly become our propensity to take credit.**

*You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”* *But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth…* (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

**My prayer for the next 90 days as I wind down my Lead Pastor role at Journey:**

* **I am praying for at least 100 new households to start consistently giving at Journey**
* **I am praying that at least 50 households will begin or resume the practice of giving a tithe of their household income at Journey**
* **I am praying that more than 10% of Journey households will make the largest financial gift they have ever given**
* **I’m praying that the last quarter of 2022 will be the most generous giving quarter in Journey’s history**

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* (Hebrews 11:1)

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* (Hebrews 11:6)

**Faith is…**

**Believing when I don’t see it**

**Obeying when I don’t understand it**

**Persisting when I don’t feel like it**

**Giving when I don’t have it**

**Thanking God before I receive it**

**Trusting if I don’t get it**