

“A Call To Service” I Chronicles 29:1-9

Being determined to get a job done right is a wonderful life quality. I have been blessed to know many people who have this quality. One such person was my mother. She always had goals to accomplish and possessed the motivation and determination to reach those goals. She worked hard at public work but was one of the best homemakers and mothers I have ever met. At fifty-nine (59) years old she was determined to get her driver’s license for the first time. She did. When she turned seventy-five (75), I tried to get her to retire from the hosiery mill where she had worked for many years. She listened patiently and when I had finished my little talk, she moved up to the edge of her chair, looked at me with “determined eyes,” and said: “Now, Phillip, I am not BUT seventy-five (75) and I am going to keep working.” She finally retired from the mill at age eighty-four (84).

Thinking about this reminded me of King David who was determined to build a great temple in Jerusalem. But because David was a man of war, God willed that David’s son, Solomon, would lead in the building of the temple. But David was determined to do his part. He worked hard gathering all the materials which Solomon would need to build that temple. In I Chronicles 29:1-9, we find David addressing the people of God. He tells them about gathering all the materials for the House of God and then confronts them with a strong challenge in the form of a question. In I Chronicles chapter 29 and the last part of verse 5, David asks: “WHO THEN IS WILLING TO CONSECRATE HIS SERVICE THIS DAY UNTO THE LORD?” Four (4) or five (5) words and one phrase in this question demand our careful attention.

1. The word WILLING: “Who then is willing . . .?” David is appealing for willing workers – people who do not have to be begged to do the work of God. David knew that the temple at Jerusalem would never be built if Solomon had to spend all his time begging the people to work. Being willing to work and having the strong determination to accomplish the task – to reach the goal – will bring positive results.

God willingly sent His Son to save us. Jesus willingly laid down His life for us. We should be willing to serve Him and others in His name.

2. The word CONSECRATE: “Who then is willing to CONSECRATE . . .?” In a spiritual sense, this word means “to give oneself to.” We can never accomplish much in the service of God until we willingly give or consecrate ourselves and our resources to God. Reaching any goal requires consecration – giving oneself to.

In our life and work as Christians we need divine power – help from God. Receiving that power – that help from above – demands CONSECRATION.

3. The Word HIS: “Who then is willing to consecrate HIS . . .?” Here we get very personal! This is a personal call to service! God wants you and God wants ME in His service. The temptation is to say, “Let someone else do that. Many people are more qualified than I am.” We can help each other in life and work but every person has a job to do – a service to render – and unless each person does his own job, it probably will not be done.

When God says: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” we should personally answer with the prophet Isaiah: “Here am I; send ME.” (Isaiah 6:8)

4. The two (2) words THIS DAY: “Who then is willing to consecrate his service THIS DAY . . .?” This really means NOW. Delay is costly and tomorrow may be too late. Now is the time to act.

Our daughter, Rose Marie, is one of the greatest lovers of the outdoors I have ever met. When she was just a toddler she would run to the door and holler “SIDE.” One day she did this several times and each time Jewell and I were occupied and called back to her to wait a while because we were busy. After this happened several times, Rose Marie went to the door, turned and walked back into the den, put on her little coat, looked up into her mother’s face, and said: “SIDE NOW.”

To you and to me God is saying: “Service now – not tomorrow – NOW.” We have waited long enough. Now is the time to willingly consecrate ourselves and our service to God. ACTION NOW.

5. The phrase UNTO THE LORD: “Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day UNTO THE LORD?” We are not called to consecrate ourselves and our service just to the church or to the denomination. Our consecration – our giving ourselves – is “unto the Lord.” In David’s day that was Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Moses, and others. Today, the Lord is Jesus Christ – the Son of God, crucified, risen, ascended, returning. Everything we do as Christians should be done as “unto the Lord.”

Verses 6-9 of I Chronicles chapter 29 affirm that the people responded to David’s great challenge by giving themselves and their resources. As a result, there was a lot of rejoicing – a lot of joy in the fellowship. Verse 9 says: “Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.” There can be a lot of rejoicing today if we will follow their great example.

And so, we return to the searching question: “Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?” Are you?

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