



September 6, 2015

1 Chronicles 21:1-7

1 Chronicles 29:1-9

*“Ownership”*

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Pastor Gary’s message this week includes two accounts that share a common theme. So, what does a story about counting soldiers, which was a sinful thing that resulted in punishment, have to do with building a Temple for the Lord, which was a good thing that honored God? In a word, ownership!

In this study, we’ll learn about a biblical understanding of ownership, what it means to have a thankful heart, a generous hand, and how we can give willingly, freely, and wholeheartedly from all the Lord has provided.

### Ownership Part 1 – David’s Sin

1. David was approximately 65 years old, and he had been king approximately 35 years.<sup>1</sup>
2. David was at the pinnacle of his reign, and the kingdom of Israel had advanced and expanded geographically, as well as in terms of prosperity, under his rule and reign.
3. When David became king, the nation of Israel only encompassed about 6,000 square miles, but in succeeding years, had grown in size to about 60,000 square miles.
4. The nation of Israel had become very wealthy, and things were also going really, really well for David.

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<sup>1</sup> David died when he was approximately 70 years old.

- a. The affair of David and Bathsheba, and the murder of her husband, Uriah, had taken place approximately 15 years earlier, and it's interesting to note that the book of Chronicles doesn't even mention these tragic events.
5. When things are difficult and we experience trials of various kinds, we are naturally drawn toward the Lord, because we recognize that we are dependent upon him.
6. When things are going well, that's when we can forget the Lord, and become more independent.
7. The Lord never intended for us to live independently of him.
8. Pastor Gary cautioned us to remember that when we experience some measure of success or accomplishment or things are going really well and we're "firing on all eight cylinders," we need to work even harder to stay close to the Lord, because the natural tendency is to live independent of the Lord.
9. At the same time, the Lord doesn't have a problem with success and accomplishment, because he is the one who makes success and accomplishment possible in our lives.
10. When we read in the Bible about people accomplishing great things, they did so because the Lord was with them.
11. It seems like it was the case that David was at the point in his life in which we might say, "He's become a little too full of himself," or "He's let success go to his head," so David ordered Joab, the general of his army, to take a census of all the fighting men in Israel.
12. To his credit, Joab was reluctant to follow David's order, but he was overruled.
13. The census recorded 1.1 million men, and the census itself took almost one year to complete.
14. The Lord considered the census to be evil, and he punished the nation for David's sin.
15. 70,000 people died and many more would have died, had David not purchased the threshing floor of Araunah for the purpose of offering a sacrifice that appealed to the mercy of the Lord.
  - a. The location of this threshing floor was Mount Moriah.

- b. Mount Moriah was the place Abraham almost sacrificed his son, Isaac.
  - c. Mount Moriah was the place Jesus would be crucified, a few thousand years after this event.
16. In David's day, it was only appropriate for a man to count or number what actually belonged to him.
- a. The Lord is not opposed to counting, because there are times when he instructed that a census be taken, however, there was a right way to do things.
    - i. **Exodus 30:11-12** - *"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.'"*
    - ii. In this account, we read that every person that was counted was to bring a ransom fee as an offering to the Lord.
      - 1. A ransom was the price paid in order to secure the freedom of someone who belongs to another.
17. Satan incited David by appealing to his pride, which caused him to glory in the size of the army as if it belonged to him.
18. The truth of the matter was that all of Israel, including the kingdom, the army, the palace, and everything else concerning David belonged to the Lord.
19. The Lord was angry with David because he was basically declaring that the army was his possession.
20. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."*
21. **Revelation 5:9** - *"[Jesus was slain and with his blood He] purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."*
22. Since Jesus paid the ransom price us we belong to the Lord.
23. **Psalms 24:1** - *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..."*
24. **Deuteronomy 8:18** - *"But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant..."*

## Ownership Part 2 – David “Gets It”

25. The Lord told David he wouldn't be the man who would build a house of worship, because he was a man of war and bloodshed; it would David's son, Solomon.
  - a. Solomon's name, in Hebrew means, peace.
  
26. The Lord inspired David with the plans and design of the temple, and it would also be David who encouraged the people to give generously toward the building project.
  
27. **1 Chronicles 29:3-4** - *“... in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver...”*
  - a. The value of gold David contributed would be equal to \$4 billion dollars today!
  
28. The people gave willing, freely, and wholeheartedly according to **1 Chronicles 29:9**, which says: *“The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.”*
  
29. David's prayer demonstrates that he “gets it.”
  - a. **1 Chronicles 29:10-13** - *“David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, ‘Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O 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.*
  - b. **1 Chronicles 29:14-16** - *“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope, O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.”*

## When The Lord Is Acknowledged As The Owner Of All Things

### You Will Have A Thankful Heart

30. When you recognize that everything comes from the Lord and belongs to the Lord, you will naturally have a thankful heart.
31. We'll be quick to say, "I'm so thankful," when we understand that everything we have comes from the Lord.
32. We'll be quick to say, "I'm so thankful," when we understand that everything we accomplish comes from the Lord.
33. We'll be quick to say, "I'm so thankful," when we understand that our children are on loan from the Lord.
34. We'll be quick to say, "I'm so thankful," when we understand that the house we live in, our health, our family, and our all comes from the Lord.

### You Will Have A Generous Hand

35. The people were very willing to give because they realized what they possessed was not really theirs to hoard.
36. When we think the ability to get money and keep money is entirely up to us, it's then that we want to control it, hoard it, store it, or worse, steal it.
37. When you realize that everything belongs to the Lord and that it's the Lord who will take care of you, then you can release your grip on money and be generous with what already belongs to the Lord.
38. [Psalm 37:25-26](#) - *"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed."*

### You Will Have A Prioritized Home

39. The Lord wants to be exalted in our lives, but he won't be as long as we claim ownership to things that don't belong to us.

## When You See The Lord As The Owner Of All Things

### You Will Manage Money Better

40. We need to be careful to remember that we have been given stewardship or management responsibilities with God's money, which means that we shouldn't spend money on frivolous things.
41. We must remember to:
  - a. Pray about major purchases.
  - b. Live within our means and avoid the pitfalls of carrying credit card debt.
  - c. Be generous with the Lord's money!
42. The real meaning of tithing in the Bible is threefold:
  - a. Giving is an expression of worship.
  - b. Giving is an acknowledgement that the Lord is the owner of everything and we are just the steward or guardian of what belongs to him.
  - c. Giving is a discipline to break the natural tendency of the human heart to be selfish, greedy, and self-reliant.

### You Will Take Care Of Things Better

43. We need to remember that it's important for us to take care of God's creation, while at the same time avoiding what some call the "environment gospel," which emphasizes worship of the earth/creation.
44. We should have the same motivation for wanting to take care of the church, because it's the Lord's house!

### You Will Take Care Better Care Of Your Children

45. We need to remember that we are only the guardians of our child/children.
46. [Psalm 24:1](#) - *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..."*

### Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.

2. Read [1 Chronicles 21:1-7 and 29:1-9](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Share examples of times when you had the sense that your successes and your accomplishments came as a result of your hard work, intelligence, etc.
4. What are some of the ways people demonstrate that they are “full of themselves”?
5. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#).
6. Read and discuss [Psalm 24:1](#) and [Deuteronomy 8:18](#).
7. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when they gave willingly, freely, and wholeheartedly.
8. Read and discuss [1 Chronicles 29:10-16](#).
9. How would you rate yourself if there were such a thing as a “thankful-heart-o-meter”?
10. Read and discuss [Psalm 37:25-26](#).
11. Are you intentional when it comes to praying about major purchases, living within your means, and being generous with the Lord’s money?
12. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s explanation about the meaning of tithing. (See #43 above)
13. Are you willingly, freely, and generously supporting the Making Him Known building fund?
14. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).