

Those who carry a little more life experience, who have made a bunch more mistakes, who have a little more of the good, the bad, and the ugly to draw from, I hope you are asking this morning, "Is there a mid-life or late-life reroute for me? How can I live my life more fully for God before I die?" To develop that further, "What is the lasting legacy God wants me to leave on earth before I go to heaven?" Or as I have been processing in this Reroute series, "What should change in my life, so I can be a blessing to the next generation?"

This message will complete our Reroute series. We have looked at several standout reroutes in David's life over these past few Sundays. I can't think of a better place to end our series than in the last days of King David's life. We will look at his famous last words. We will see that shortly before his death, his priority was not to acquire more land for his kingdom or defeat the next enemy out on the frontier. His final priority was to leave a lasting legacy. And he gave his subjects a final charge in the form of a blessing to the people of Israel, and a blessing to his son, Solomon.

A book that came out several years ago called *The Blessing*. It was written by two Christian psychologists, John Trent and Gary Smalley. The book is about the importance of giving a blessing to those in your life.

Smalley and Trent tell us that in the Bible, a blessing was a public declaration. A blessing would state a favored status on someone. A blessed person was favored by God and usually their family. The person who received the blessing was endowed with power and protection and was expected to prosper and find success. Smalley and Trent concluded this as the biblical definition of a blessing.

### **To Bless is to Add Value and Weight to Someone's Life**

The idea is to place something of value on a weighing scale. The value of a coin was based on its weight. The coin that moved the scale the most was the heaviest and therefore, the most valuable. When we bless another person, we add value and weight to their life. I love the example of the Father blessing his Son at his baptism. "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." The Father was saying to the Son, "You are my Son, I love you, and you have something important that you were sent to do." Every human on earth craves the blessing of hearing publically that they are special, that they are loved, and that they have something important to contribute.

One the other side of a blessing is a curse. A curse comes from the idea of damming up a stream. Smalley and Trent stated, "When we curse someone, we are choosing to "dam up the stream" on life-giving actions and words that could flow down to that person."

A curse means to take away. To dam up the stream of life-giving water may look like this: To never have someone speak a message of blessing over you, never praise you in public, never attach high value to you, never picture a special future for you, or never actively commit to supporting you to fulfill your purpose. To literally dam up what should flow to give you life and purpose.

1 Chronicles 28-29 is the last public address by David, and we will see our final reroute challenge of our series to bless the next generation.

Our story of a reroute blessing begins with irony. The greatly blessed King David's final reroute came because of an unfulfilled dream he had.

### **David's Final Reroute Came from an Unfulfilled Dream**

So, after 40 years of being the King of Israel, David summoned all of his chief officials, his military officers, his brave fighting men, and all those responsible for overseeing the working of his kingdom and his fortune. Likely hundreds of VIP's were gathered that day. As David looked out over the crowd, every face brought back a memory.

**King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.' (1Chron. 28: 2-3)**

David had lived his life wanting nothing more than to build the temple, a permanent place of rest for the Ark. David spent most of his life fighting his enemies so his people could find rest. When he wasn't fighting, he was drawing up the plans for the temple in Jerusalem. The temple would be the place where God would meet with His people in the Holy of Holies, on the Mercy Seat above the Ark. No more wandering in the wilderness, no more moving the ark here and there, no more temporary tabernacles, just a permanent place to worship. Who could argue with anyone who wanted to leave this kind of legacy?

And I know in every one of us there is a dream, a desire. Something you think about a lot, and if you were absolutely honest before God, it would mean everything to you to see it fulfilled and see it define your legacy after you die. And it's likely a good thing.

**"Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the tribe of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. Of all my sons—and the LORD has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. He said to me: 'Solomon your son is**

**the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.' vv. 4-7**

So what do we see here? We see that David accepted God's desires over his own. When his son Solomon was born, he was given the name that means peace. The word shalom is directly related in root form to the name Solomon. The Lord chose Solomon, a man of peace, to build the temple. David realized God wanted a man of a different temperament than his own. This wasn't David being punished. This was God beginning a new era.

And when we read David's words, we sense that he isn't tormented by what God didn't allow him to do, but instead, he is focusing on what God allowed him to do. He was at peace with the sovereignty of His God. It's easy for us to become consumed over our unfulfilled dreams and overlook all the things that God gives us, and what he is accomplishing through us.

God doesn't give David, a man after God's own heart, the answer he wants. Instead, God tells David no. It usually takes a few years for us to realize that something we want to happen isn't going to happen. Maybe your dream is a dream for a ministry. Maybe your dream is a dream of a certain type of career or place of recognition in your field. Maybe your dream is a dream for romance and marriage. Maybe your dream is a dream or a hope for relief from some burden that you or a loved one carries.

My challenge to all of us is to do what David does here. Look for and find satisfaction in what God has allowed you to do. We can be overwhelmed by failures in our lives, or we can say, "By the grace of God, I did the best I could with what I had." David continued:

**"So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever. v. 8**

So what is David's final reroute? He sees that in all the ups and downs, the blessings, the trials, the successes and failures he experienced, he has a whole lot of learned wisdom to share. He has something to give to help direct the next generation.

### **David's Final Reroute Was to Bless the Next Generation with His Direction**

First, he addresses his son, Solomon in front of the entire assembly.

**"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." vv. 9-10**

David's direction to his Son was to know the God of his father! David knows, because of his life experience, that we fall to temptation when we don't take the time to know God. And David knows busyness tempts us not to take time to know God. As he looked at his beautiful son, Solomon, he likely thought about Solomon's mother, Bathsheba. Maybe he saw in Solomon some of himself and wanted to warn Solomon to know God above all else. To teach the next generation to know God, above all else, is a powerful lesson and a great reroute.

Next, he directs Solomon to serve the God of His father. Serve with your whole heart and whole mind. The worship warrior says serve enthusiastically. Hold nothing back. I could see David, with the reputation of being a man after God's own heart saying to Solomon, "Son, we all know you have a brilliant mind, but you must keep your heart devoted to God."

**Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. vv. 11-12**

Can you just picture David, who had poured over these plans for decades finally handing the plans to his son? Worn, yellow, doggy eared, personal notes and scriptures scribbled on the edges, coffee stains, all his dreams rolled up in blueprints, and saying to his son, Solomon, "It's God's call for you to make all this happen."

**"All this," David said, "I have in writing as a result of the LORD's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan." v. 19**

Next, David directs Solomon to lead people. David knew well that Solomon would be confronted with problems as a political leader. So in verse 20, he gives the same exhortation to Solomon that God gave to Joshua before he led the Israelites to cross the Jordan and go into the battle for the Promised Land.

**David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished. The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing person skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command." vv. 20-21**

David is directing Solomon to stand up, be a man, and just do the work. Maybe this is a special message to the men here today. Heed David's words. To paraphrase, "Men stand up and act like men. Sure, things haven't gone the way you hoped, but here are your marching orders."

I can just see David directing Solomon. 1. Solomon, resist passivity. 2. Solomon, accept responsibility 3. Solomon, lead courageously 4. Solomon, work for God's greater rewards given in heaven.

After exhorting Solomon, David turns his attention to all the people. He addresses the next generation.

David's final reroute is blessing the next generation with his direction, and he is also blessing the next generation with his generosity.

### **David's Final Reroute: Bless the Next Generation with His Generosity**

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 my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.

Besides, 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.... Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?" 1 Chron. 29:1-3, 5

Can you see Solomon standing there young, inexperienced, and untested, standing next to his battle-scarred father and being handed the scepter of rule? David wants his son and the people to know that their nation is unified; their nation is large, their borders are secure, and their nation is prosperous.

David was not just generous with his nation's resources; he also was generous with his own personal resources. And he invites his subjects to do the same. And look at how the people respond? David's reroute to leave a legacy of generosity inspires the next generation to be generous too. They follow David's example.

**Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. v. 6**

**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. v. 9**

The people gave sacrificially. They gave cheerfully because their hearts were in it. They gave out of a desire to worship the Lord. God loves to bless those who are generous because that's who God is. God is generous.

### **David's Final Reroute Blessed the Next Generation with His Surrender**

Look who David credits for Israel's success and prosperity. He bows to the Lord.

**"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 foreigners and strangers in your**

**sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope." vv. 14-15**

David is saying, "Remember your identity. You are not at home here, so don't build your own kingdom, or temples, instead build up what lasts for eternity."

David was surrounded by enormous wealth. Yet riches never captured his heart. David fought a lot of internal battles, but we don't see evidence that he was trapped by greed or materialism.

**LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. vv. 16-17**

I love his words, "All of it Lord. Everything we have belongs to you." This place where we gather for worship, where our kids and students meet to learn about Jesus, the homes where our community groups meet, all of it is yours God, everything.

Reroute to generosity and gratitude. Model it to the next generation. Hold everything loosely as David did.

### **David's Final Reroute Blessed the Next Generation with His Prayers**

I was talking on the phone last week with my dad. My dad is confined to a wheelchair. He doesn't see or hear that well. He hears better when he has batteries in his hearing aids. I have to talk loudly. When I'm here at church, and I call him, I go to the top deck of the parking structure to talk. When I am in my condo, I wonder what my neighbors in my building think as they walk past my door. Here is my point. As we get old and our energy decreases, we may be limited to do much of anything. But we can still pray for the next generation.

In our final reroute, it's quite natural to see ourselves as no longer useful; as irrelevant to the next generation. Just because I like Turner Classic Movies and I am about to go to my 40-year High School reunion, doesn't make me irrelevant. But even if I ended up living the last chapter of my life in a nursing home as my own dad will, there is one thing I can do to bless the next generation as long as I can draw a breath. I can pray. David prayed:

**LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." 1 Chron. 29: 18-19**

A big part of my legacy is my grandson, Harvey, and oh yes, my daughter, Katie. Last Sunday, we were in Wisconsin, and we took Harvey to church. I held him most of the time at church because I wanted to give my daughter and son-in-law a break. Also, I wanted to parade him around and show him off. I walked him in the lobby and in the children's wing.

I sang the worship songs in his ear. It wasn't that easy. My grandson is only five months, and he is over 18 pounds wearing 9 to 12-month onesies. He is a chunk. He motivates me to make a reroute so I can bless Harvey, his mom, and his dad with direction, generosity, and the example of trying to live a surrendered life, and until I take my last breath, to bless them with prayer.

I hope David's life has inspired you to consider how you can bless the next generation. In fact, I'm anxious to share with you as we close, five ways we can be a blessing to the next generation. Smalley and Trent in The Blessing gave five ways to be a blessing to the next generation.

### **Rerouting a Blessing to the Next Generation**

#### **Meaningful and Appropriate Touch**

I incorporated this with my children, Julie, and now, my grandson. Meaningful touch goes all the way back to the Old Testament. It conveys warmth, personal acceptance, and love.

I was intentional to hold and carry my grandson as much as I could while on vacation. And one of my favorite times is after his mom gives him a bath and I get to hold him, sniff his clean hair, and kiss the top of his head.

#### **A Spoken Message**

In many homes, words of love are not spoken, and that is tragic. And then there are other parents who assume that simply being present communicates the blessing. Blessings need to be spoken, written down, in person, or in my case so much more by Facetime these days. I'm 58 years old, and it still matters to me that my feeble dad tells me he loves me. So I'm intentional to speak words of love and blessing to Harvey.

#### **Attaching High Value**

To convey a blessing, the words must attach high value to the person being blessed. When we went to church together, and I carried him in the lobby. I quietly sang the worship songs in his ear. I whispered how much God loves him. We went on walks, and I would look down at him in the stroller and tell him how much his mom, dad, grammy, poppy, and auntie love him. I told him how special he was when we laid him on his blanket or when he looked at books. I made up a song. His dad wrote a beautiful poem to bless his son. Words and actions that attached high value.

#### **Picturing a Special Future for him**

This was fun. Harvey and his parents live on five acres, and there are lots of places to run, shoot, and ride ATV's. I had fun talking to him and picturing all the things he will hunt with his dad someday. But mostly I pictured a boy who grows to be a man who leads and loves, who will follow the great examples from God's Word and the examples of godly people. I pictured a special future for Harvey, where he would step up

*This manuscript represents the bulk of what was preached at CPC. For further detail, please refer to the audio recording of this sermon.*

and be a man. That he will reject passivity, lead courageously, accept responsibility, and seek the eternal rewards that David sought in his life.

### **An Active Commitment to Fulfilling the Blessing**

The reroute blessing we offer the next generation is more than words. To give a blessing, our words must be backed by our commitment. To bless the next generation, we need the Holy Spirit to give us the staying power, the spine, and the willingness to do everything possible to help the next generation receive their blessing.

So what is the last thing we can know about David?

**David son of Jesse was king over all Israel. He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king. vv. 26-28**

The Apostle Paul has this take on David's life.

**"Now when David had served God's purposes in his own generation, he fell asleep and was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay." Acts 13: 36-37**

Not many of us will have a purpose as great as David's, but every one of us has a purpose for living, a significant reason God gave us life. David's purpose was to point people to God. And to get very specific, our purpose is to point people to Jesus.

Fill in your name in the blank.

Now when \_\_\_\_\_ (your name), had served God's purposes to the next generation, you fell asleep, and you were buried, and you passed away from the face of the earth.

How did you serve God's purposes for the next generation? How might God want to reroute your life to serve God's purposes and bless the next generation?

The tragedy of all tragedies is to live and die and never be rerouted to be a blessing to the next generation. Commit to leaving a legacy in the last third of your life. To bless the next generation with good direction, with generosity, with the example of a surrendered life, and until you take your last breath, your prayers for the next generation.

So, when those twilight years arrive, and your life comes to an end, you can be satisfied that you served God's purposes to be a blessing to the next generation with your life.

© 2019 Central Peninsula Church, Foster City, CA  
Catalog No. 1436-6FC