

## I. Introduction

- A. I sat in my office this past Friday, working on this message, and outside my window I heard the sound of heavy equipment: bulldozers and graders and other big things shoving dirt around. I'm not sure what they're doing, exactly—it looks to me like they shove the dirt one direction and then they shove it back the other direction.
- B. Yeah, I'm a city boy.
- C. Even though I don't know what they're doing with the dirt, I know what the goal is, what the prize is.
- D. And you know what? It isn't a building. That's part of it, and I'm excited for the building. But that's not the ultimate prize, is it? That's not the goal.
- E. The goal is people. The goal is that every single person in Redding, and in Shasta County, and in Trinity County, and in Tehema County, and in Northern California, and in this nation and the world—that every single person we can possibly reach will be touched with the love of God that we have found through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- F. The prize is people.
- G. The prize is everyONE.
- H. For the sake of everyone, we will push around dirt, if that's what it takes. We will dig sewer lines, we will build foundations, we will raise up a mission outpost here. We will do what it takes so that everyone we can touch will be touched by the gospel of God's amazing grace.
- I. Do you believe that everyone matters to God?
- J. I do, and I want to show it to you from Scripture today, in two places. So, let's mark 2 spots: Mark 4:25, and then 1 Chronicles 29:6; that's where we'll start.
- K. While you're turning there—we're sporting our new t-shirts today—they say "Everyone." You can buy one today, they're \$10.00. And if you're walking around town and somebody asks you, "What about everyone?" All you need to say is "Everyone matters to God" and see what God does with that.
- L. Same with these wrist bands, they say "I am 1." If someone asks you, just say, "I am one who matters to God. And so do you." And take it from there.
- M. Today, I'd like to speak with you on the topic, Everyone Receives. Everyone receives.

## II. The Temple (1 Chronicles 29)

- A. *Then the family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the generals and captains of the army, and the king's administrative officers all gave willingly. For the construction of the Temple of God, they gave almost 188 tons of gold, 10,000 gold coins, about 375 tons of silver, about 675 tons of bronze and about 3,750 tons of iron. They also contributed numerous precious stones, which were deposited in the treasury of the house of the LORD under the care of Jehiel, a descendant of Gershon. The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD, and King David was filled with joy (1 Chronicles 29:6-9, NLT).*
- B. A little back-story: In this chapter, God's people are going to build a temple. King David had the idea, but he wasn't going to be the builder. His son, King Solomon would build it. Here, the king donated 112 tons of gold, worth \$3,182,233,600.00.
- C. Now, everyone else gets in on the act—adding another 186 tons of gold, worth \$5,284,780,800.00. The grand total = \$8.5 billion and that's just the gold.
- D. That was going to be one extremely glorious temple.
- E. Why?
- F. Because they wanted the whole world to know that there was a God in heaven worth their very best.
- G. There was an invisible God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—who was worthy of their all.
- H. And notice verse 9—when the people gave their money, did they act like they were at a funeral service? Were they miserable?
- I. No. They celebrated.
- J. Were they forced into it? No. It says they had given freely and wholeheartedly.
- K. Now, I'm building up to a life-changing truth here, so stay with me.
- L. If you look at the inventory of gifts, you'll see that not everything was money. There were coins, yes. But there was also stuff made of silver and bronze and iron. There were precious stones and jewelry. The people didn't just give money, they gave their stuff.
- M. PAUSE...

## III. Everyone Gives

- A. When God first led us into this building project for Neighborhood Church, the economy was flying high, and our budget was doing pretty well. Our church leaders and governing board met many times. We studied it from every angle and we went on a retreat. God was so clear with us there; He impressed on our hearts that now was the time to build.
- B. And with fear and trepidation, but also with confidence in the leading of God and in His perfect provision, we said yes.
- C. And we got the ball rolling, and you, church, have responded so generously and graciously. Thank you.
- D. It was at that point that God, in His infinite sense of humor, dropped the greatest economic meltdown that any of us have seen in our lifetimes. Ha-ha, God, very funny. Thank you for that.
- E. But you have continued to give and give toward our new building, and right now, you can see the first fruits of that, as we construct a building pad and get it protected for the rainy winter.
- F. As our staff thought through 1 Chronicles 29, we realized that there were people sitting in our church—and you're one of them—who might have some tangible property in your house that you'd like to give to the Lord, just like God's people did back in Chronicles.
- G. The next thing we thought was, if we're not clear, we're gonna wind up with a rummage sale and a whole lot of broken exercise equipment, stinky potty seats, Commodore 64's, and 1980's women's blouses with padded shoulders.
- H. That scared us.
- I. So here's what we'd like to do.
- J. If you have good quality stuff to give to God, would you help us and sell it on E-Bay or Craigslist first? Or maybe have your own yard sale first?

1. Do you know that in our first round of giving someone gave our church a vintage Mustang (auto)? Someone else gave us a boat?
  2. That's the kind of thing.
- K. But before you sell it, take a picture. We want the picture so we can celebrate as a church family.
- L. You received an envelope today, and a card outlining how to do all this. (If you read, watch, or listen to our messages online, consider yourself invited).
- M. So we have 2 dates when we'd like you to do this. We're doing an initial run at it this week, so you would bring back your envelope next weekend (though there's no deadline, really). And then again a second opportunity a month from now, in October.
- N. So that extra TV, or lawn mower, or Ranger bass boat, or pickup truck. If you have small stuff of value, like stocks or jewelry or rare coins, you can put that in the envelope—or maybe attach a larger envelope, and give it directly. But we're not prepared for bulky stuff, or big stuff.
- O. I know that I'm talking about money, and that makes a lot of people jittery. But I hope you notice—no guilt. No pressure. No manipulation. Because if God's grace feels full in your life, you're going to give and God is going to supply.
- P. Scan down to 1 Chronicles 29:14:
- IV. *But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us! (1 Chronicles 29:14, NLT).*
- A. That's what David prayed after they collected all the resources to build the temple.
  - B. Everything you have comes from God. Even your breath is borrowed—your whole life is on loan from God. And when you give God a prayer, or a good work, or a \$20 bill, or a tithe, or a cup of cold water... you are only giving Him back what He first gave to you.
  - C. We love God because He first loved us.
  - D. And if you've ever felt loved by God, I'm inviting you to reciprocate His love, and to love Him back as best you can.
  - E. Our topic is Everyone Receives. Can you see that here? These people were blessed people.
  - F. Are we blessed people? Are you a blessed person? Does God love you? Has God helped you, provided for you, encouraged you, strengthened you, guided you, empowered you, protected you, delivered you, forgiven you, or saved you? Has God Fathered you?
  - G. Yes He has.
  - H. You have received more from God than you realize.
  - I. And I know times are hard right now, for a whole lot of us.
  - J. And that makes me wonder—when my life is beating me up, what is God doing? Let's turn to the other place in the Bible, Mark 4: 10.
- V. *On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" (Mark 4:35-41, NKJV).*
- A. So, here they go on a boat. Whose idea was that? Who suggested that? It was Jesus. Jesus got them to go on the boat, and they ended up in a big storm.
  - B. When my life is beating me up, what is God doing?
  - C. I said we're building up to a big truth, and here it is. There's a teaching in the Bible that I want to give a name, so we can talk about it.
  - D. Here's the name: Logistical Grace Support
  - E. I didn't make up the name, the military did—we're just adding grace into it.
  - F. If you look up logistics in the dictionary, this is what you find:
    1. The detailed coordination of a complex operation involving many people, facilities, or supplies. e.g., Military, the organization of moving, housing, and supplying troops and equipment.
  - G. Many years ago, when I pastored in Chicago, a couple in my church called me, and invited me over. They said, Bill, guess what? This advertising company drove around Chicago looking for the quintessential Chicago bungalow, and they picked our house. And they're going to film a commercial, and we want you to come over, because the star of the commercial is MIKE DITKA!
    1. (If you don't know, he was the Superbowl winning coach of the Chicago Bears, and is a minor deity in Chicago).
  - H. So I went, and I got there early, and I was amazed at what it took to make a 30 second bank commercial. There was an army of people there, and the Coach was nowhere to be found. They filmed outside, so they brought in fake plants. They changed the address placard. They laid down little railroad tracks, and put a wagon on it with a camera, so they could pull the guy smoothly. Other people were inside setting up one area for makeup, and another area for wardrobe. The audio guys were checking microphones. The lighting guys set up reflectors. The video guys were setting their cameras, figuring their shots.
  - I. Chicago police closed down the street. It was a big deal.
  - J. The logistical support was off the charts, and that was for a 30 second commercial.
  - K. And you would never know unless you could see behind the scenes.
  - L. Finally, a limo pulled up, and the Coach walked into my friend's house. The producer introduced him to the couple, who lived there, my friends and then introduced him to ME, and we shook hands, and I've never washed this hand since.
  - M. Do you know that when those disciples climbed into that boat, the logistical supply apparatus of heaven kicked into high gear?
  - N. Angels to protect them. The laws of nature to sustain them. The hedge of protection. The wall of fire. God fed them that day, so their muscles could handle the oars.
  - O. The logistical support was off the charts.

- P. And Jesus knew it, so He took a nap because heaven never takes a nap. The logistical grace support team never takes a nap. Jesus knew that the meteorological support team of heaven was on the job, and if a storm came, then heaven would shift gears before it even happened, and supply what he needed for the storm.
- Q. Did the disciples get it? No.
- R. Do you? (Don't answer out loud. You don't want to embarrass yourself.)

#### VI. Logistical Grace Support

- A. LGS means that God guides, protects, and supplies all you need to accomplish His plan for your life with dignity, grace, and joy.
- B. The key verse would be: *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8, NKJV).*
  - 1. Life-support. God takes personal responsibility to sustain your life day by day. You do not need to fear death, because your life and eternity are both in God's hand. No storm can take you out ahead of schedule. Not even all the forces of hell combined can break through God's supply line, and take your life ahead of time. For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death. (Psalms 48:14, NKJV).
  - 2. Daily needs pipeline. This includes food and shelter, clothing, friendships, relationships, income, jobs, creativity, diligence—all the daily bread stuff. God promises and God always supplies. Jesus said not to worry about it, because God worries about it for you (Matthew 6:33). And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19, NKJV).
  - 3. A Portfolio of Spiritual Assets. You have the inscripturated Word of God. You have the privilege of prayer. You have a church, a family, a community that is here for you, and we are all one. You have a new identity and a new name in Christ. You have the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. You've been redeemed, you've been justified, you've been forgiven, you've been regenerated, you've been adopted—you've been blessed, by the ongoing logistical grace support from the hand of a God who never lets His people down. When that storm came, God's logistical grace support team was supplying everything they needed NOT to freak out. Did they use it? No. (Eph 1:3, 2 Pet 1:3).
  - 4. An impregnable security apparatus. The angel of the Lord, the Bible says, camps all around those who trust Him (Ps 34:7). Not even the strongest storm can pull you from the hand of God. Once He saves you, He always saves you. Jesus didn't shed His blood, die on the Cross, and rise again, to put temporary Band-Aids on owies. Jesus did all that to give a new and permanent life to all who believe, and to make you a whole new creation, with a whole new life. And now, says the Bible, you "are kept garrisoned, guarded, slammed into God's vault by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:5, NKJV). No ill can harm you, no foe alarms you, and you are safe in the hollow of His hand.
- C. I am telling you, Christian, that when you drove here today, and when you go to work or take care of your family or visit the doctor or do great ministry for God or look for a job, or pay your bills—in every moment of every day, you are on the receiving end of a vast logistical grace support apparatus that is more than sufficient for every need and every emergency you will ever face.
  - 1. *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:31, 32, NKJV).*
- D. Everyone receives. Everyone Receives. You are blessed. You are rich. You are a royal child of a Great King. You are not a meaningless lump of clay. You are not worthless. You are not pointless. You are a vessel of the power of God, and He is shaping you for the glory of God.
- E. And here's the question you always have to ask yourself...
  - 1. Is there any storm stronger than God?
  - 2. Is there any problem that will interrupt His divine supply line?
  - 3. Can any power in heaven or earth shut down your God given life support before God wills?
  - 4. Can any scarcity block your daily needs pipeline?
  - 5. Can any tidal wave of needs overwhelm your portfolio of spiritual assets?
  - 6. Can any force of hell defeat your heavenly security apparatus?
- F. Then why are you afraid? But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

#### VII. Everyone Matters to God

- A. Everyone matters to God. You do. You really do. He hasn't lost you. He hasn't neglected you. He's supplying for you. He is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who Provides. Rest in that provision.
- B. I am asking you, respectfully; to be faithful and regular in giving to the incredible ministry that God is doing here at Neighborhood Church. It's bigger than any one person. It's bigger than we ever planned. And it's wonderful. God is moving and touching lives.
- C. And we need you to help give. But what good is it to ask you to give, if money is your security blanket?
- D. Ever try to take away a kid's security blanket? You get a whole lot of wailing, and beside that, it's cruel.
- E. But what if I gave you a better security blanket? A bigger one that never wears out. You have one. What if I could give you blanket protection of the power of a God who is totally committed to your well-being for time and eternity?
- F. You could let go, couldn't you? You could let go of your stuff and your toys. You'll never out give your God. Test Him. Test Him in that. Prove Him.

#### VIII. Conclusion

- A. I'm telling you today, Neighborhood Church—we are in a boat on a stormy sea. Let me tell you where you live. You live on planet trouble. It's part of life. But your troubles can never be bigger than your logistical grace support. God is the shepherd of your soul.
- B. Everyone Receives. You are blessed. I can't finish this message without ending the story the way the Bible ends it. Because when the disciples rode that boat in the stormy sea, they had a mission. But they didn't know it.

1. *Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet Him. This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones. (Mark 5:2-5, NLT).*
- C. What storm would you endure to bring Jesus to that man?
- D. You know what? YOU were that man. You were that woman. And somebody got in a boat, and braved a storm, to bring you Jesus.
- E. Aren't you glad?
- F. Aren't you so grateful somebody told you about Jesus? About a bleeding, dying, rising, living, Savior?
- G. You were that man, that woman, and you desperately needed Jesus.
- H. Now, it's your turn. Jesus says to you, get in the boat. There's a desperate person on the other side—180,214 of them. That's the population of Shasta County—180,214 reasons to brave the storm.
- I. What storm would you endure—protected by the grace of God, knowing that storm can't win in the end—what storm would you endure to reach into the devil's domain and rescue lost men and lost women and lost children who don't know their spiritual right hand from the spiritual left hand?
- J. The goal is people.
- K. Everyone matters—even the people who are so far gone, you give up hope.
- L. Even the people who are separated from you by a storm or a sea.
- M. Everyone matters to God.
- N. And they matter to me. And to you. And to Neighborhood Church.
- O. I won't go over the whole story, but when the man met Jesus, Jesus delivered him from his demons.
1. *A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, but they were frightened when they saw the man who had been demon possessed, for he was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane (Mark 5:15, NLT).*
  2. *So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them (Mark 5:20, NLT).*
- P. That man lives in Redding. That kind of woman lives in Redding. You work with them. You go to school with them. Oh, they're not as whole destroyed on the outside. But without Christ, they're every bit as lost on the inside.
1. And if God asks you to get in the boat...
  2. And if God asks you to brave a storm...
  3. And if God asks you to pull the oars...
  4. And if, in all that asking, God promises to watch over you better than you can imagine...
- Q. Won't you quit hesitating?
- R. Won't you quit being half in and half out?
- S. Won't you just smile, and climb aboard, and be all in?
- T. I'm not asking you to give any of your stuff to God. I'm just asking you to give some of God's stuff to God.
1. *But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us! (1 Chronicles 29:14, NLT).*