

<sup>23</sup> “Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish,” Araunah said to David. “I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, and the threshing boards for wood to build a fire on the altar, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give it all to you.”

<sup>24</sup> But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the LORD. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!” <sup>25</sup> So David gave Araunah 600 pieces of gold in payment for the threshing floor.

<sup>26</sup> David built an altar there to the LORD and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And when David prayed, the LORD answered him by sending fire from heaven to burn up the offering on the altar. <sup>27</sup> Then the LORD spoke to the angel, who put the sword back into its sheath.

<sup>28</sup> When David saw that the LORD had answered his prayer, he offered sacrifices there at Araunah’s threshing floor.

6) Once again God sends Gad (King David’s Prophet) to David. What does God tell David to do, and what is David’s response?

7) Why does David insist on paying for the threshing floor?

King David was insistent that he should not offer something to the Lord that didn’t cost him anything. There are some parallels that I would like us to consider as they relate to **bold measures**.

8) What resources do you have at your disposal? (I am not referring to money alone.)

9) Pastor Craig taught us on Sunday that a measure is “a step taken as a means to an end.” What measures can you take to be closer to God this week?

10) What measures can you take to serve others this week? (Family, spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, church)

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

- 1) What measures are God asking me to take with my family?
- 2) What measures are God asking me to take at the church?
- 3) How can I be bold in these steps?

**Message Thread:** Bold measures are the result of what I believe.

Measure - “A step taken as a means to an end.”  
-Are we clear about what’s at stake?

**Text:** 1 Chronicles 21:11-28 NLT

David’s census:

- David had some great ideas! They weren’t God’s. His best ideas hurt people and himself.
- David had crystal clear clarity from God’s Word about his best idea, yet he ignored God.
- David took advantage of the mercy of God at a sacrificial cost.
- David chose to engage God when everyone else ran from Him.
- David would not ask God for something and offer Him nothing.
- David offered himself in obedience to God to serve the needs of others.

3 bold measures that will shape your life:

1. Chair Time - Engaging God’s presence through prayer and His Word.
2. Listening daily for the whispers of God.
  - Understanding myself and others.
    - How to love God and people in difficult times.
  - Obedience
    - Actually, my best efforts are when I am in obedience to God’s Word.
  - Availability
3. Serve others
  - Personal life
  - Church

**Challenge:**

- Getting clarity about what God wants for my family, my marriage, my singleness, my heart, and my obedience, as our nation watches us walk with Jesus in our generation.

- Take bold measures.



## MY STORY

- 1) What is your favorite breakfast food?
- 2) Are you a traveler or a homebody?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

## DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Before we read the passage below, we need to understand a couple things: First, God told Israel that their free will choice to have a king over them would come with consequences of the kings' choices. They chose to have a king instead of having God as their King. Secondly, David was already aware that taking a census of Israel's army was considered a sin in God's eyes. God had commanded the kings of Israel not to do such things because the temptation would be to rely on their own strength and power instead of on God's. Therefore, the size of one's army was a metric the Israelites were told to never count.

1 Chronicles 20:1-15 (NLT)

Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the people of Israel. <sup>2</sup> So David said to Joab and the commanders of the army, "Take a census of all the people of Israel—from Beersheba in the south to Dan in the north—and bring me a report so I may know how many there are."

<sup>3</sup> But Joab replied, "May the Lord increase the number of his people a hundred times over! But why, my lord the king, do you want to do this? Are they not all your servants? Why must you cause Israel to sin?"

<sup>4</sup> But the king insisted that they take the census, so Joab traveled throughout all Israel to count the people. Then he returned to Jerusalem <sup>5</sup> and reported the number of people to David. There were 1,100,000 warriors in all Israel who could handle a sword, and 470,000 in Judah.

<sup>6</sup> But Joab did not include the tribes of Levi and Benjamin in the census because he was so distressed at what the king had made him do. <sup>7</sup> God was very displeased with the census, and he punished Israel for it. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt for doing this foolish thing."

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Gad, David's seer. This was the message:

<sup>10</sup> "Go and say to David, 'This is what the Lord says: I will give you three choices. Choose one of these punishments, and I will inflict it on you.'"

<sup>11</sup> So Gad came to David and said, "These are the choices the Lord has given you. <sup>12</sup> You may choose three years of famine, three months of destruction by the sword of your enemies, or three days of severe plague as the angel of the Lord brings devastation throughout the land of Israel. Decide what answer I should give the Lord who sent me."

<sup>13</sup> "I'm in a desperate situation!" David replied to Gad. "But let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great. Do not let me fall into human hands."

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and 70,000 people died as a result. <sup>15</sup> And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But just as the angel was preparing to destroy it, the Lord relented and said to the death angel, "Stop! That is enough!" At that moment the angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

- 4) What did Joab do to try to dissuade David from taking a census? Was Joab clear about what the results would be if he did it?

Let's be honest. This is one of those passages that can seem a little extreme. God's response to David's sin can seem harsh to us. We must remember a couple of things. First, as I pointed out earlier, the people paid the price for their choice to have a king over them and this was the consequence of their free will. Secondly, this takes place during the era of the law, therefore there was punishment for breaking the law. David knew this going in. God is just. He is both perfect in love and perfect in justice. This means that no sin can go without punishment. This is one of those stories that reveals our desperate need for a redeemer—Jesus. He satisfied the justice of God and offers us the mercy of God because He loves us. God is Holy and also perfectly just and perfectly loving and in Christ we see the perfection of both of those things.

- 5) How does David respond to Gad when given the choice?

1 Chronicles 21:18-28 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Then the angel of the LORD told Gad to instruct David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. <sup>19</sup> So David went up to do what the LORD had commanded him through Gad.

<sup>20</sup> Araunah, who was busy threshing wheat at the time, turned and saw the angel there. His four sons, who were with him, ran away and hid. <sup>21</sup> When Araunah saw David approaching, he left his threshing floor and bowed before David with his face to the ground. <sup>22</sup> David said to Araunah, "Let me buy this threshing floor from you at its full price. Then I will build an altar to the LORD there, so that he will stop the plague."