



Bricks & Stones | Buying Altars | Ronnie Johnson
Weekly Study | 11.24.19

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?

SHARE

This week Ronnie kicked off the new series, *Bricks & Stones: For Our Children's Children*. We are taking a look at the altars that our forefathers of the faith built, and the altars built today. The stones are symbolic of the altars that were built by the forefathers of the faith and bricks are symbolic of the altars being built today. The heart behind both is centered around personal sacrifice. Altars are built for our sacrifice, but our buildings and churches are built to tell about the ultimate sacrifice, Jesus

What was one thing that God revealed to you after listening to Ronnie's message?

GROW

Read 1 Chronicles 21:7-8

Throughout Ronnie's message, there were significant points of friction. Tension hanging in the air. The message opens with David, God's chosen king of Israel, confessing that he has "sinned greatly" (1 Chronicles 21:7-8). Over what? In at least six times, the scriptures record David confessing, "I have sinned." He confesses adultery, then having set up people to be murdered

in an attempt to cover his sin. But this time was different for some reason. He says, "I have sinned greatly". What could possibly be "worse" than adultery and murder? Unbelief!

Despite all the miraculous ways God had shown His unwavering faithfulness to both David and Israel, David in the moment, felt as though he needed take matters into his own hands and perhaps help God out a bit. Ronnie makes a great statement here, "*sometimes God's greatest mechanism to teach us, is allowing us to have our own way and realize it was foolish.*" David was motivated by his own pride. He wanted to magnify his own achievements rather than to glorify the Lord.

Can you recall a moment in your marriage, career, relationships, etc. where you were motivated by pride?

God promised David's son, heir to throne, Solomon, that he would be a man of peace. He had already promised the provision necessary to see His promise through. What God said He would do, David felt he needed to do. "God was very displeased with the census, and he punished Israel for it. Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt for doing this foolish thing" Chronicles 21:7-8. What was David's great sin? Unbelief! David didn't believe in God's provision.

Where have you and where are you currently experiencing God's faithfulness in your life?

Where have you and where are you currently experiencing unbelief?

M O V E

Read 1 Chronicles 21:18-24

Nothing is ever built without sacrifice. Sacrifice is an invitation to join God's work not an obligation to prove our worth. The central message of God's work has been, is and will always be the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the proclamation that not only is Jesus enough, but Jesus is better. And so, God's work is sharing this Truth to every corner of the earth. God's invitation is to join Him on His mission as He reveals Himself to the world. When we give of our resources to the church, we become shareholders in life change beyond these walls. Every brick represents a soul and a story.

Has Red Rocks Church impacted your life personally?

If so, how?

After repentance, David remembered and rediscovered his invitation to join in God's work by using his personal resources to purchase property to construct an altar and make a sacrifice to God. Even at the instance of the property owner to have the property free of cost, David insisted to pay full price for the property. David replied, "I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing" (1 Chronicles 21:24). The next point of friction, it cost him something. Worship and love are found in sacrifice. He found freedom in his obedience to God. God used David's sacrifice to help pave the way, to put God's glory on display. The place where David found freedom became the place that Israel would find freedom. The place where David sacrificed would be the place where Israel worshipped the Lord for generations and the glory of God would-be put-on display.

While looking back on your life, into your family history, do you see that there were people that have gone before you that have sacrificed much so that you could have a chance to build a good life?

Who is that one person/are those people that has gone before you that have sacrificed much? In what way has your life been impacted by them?

When we sacrificially give, we get to be a part of life change of the generations to come. Stone by stone they made their sacrifice, brick by brick we exalt the One who sacrificed for us today. We simply want to invite you to several weeks to explore what lies on the other side of obedience and sacrifice.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 1 Corinthians 9:7

