

INTRODUCTION

1 Chronicles 18-20 describes many victories that God gave to Israel’s army, led by David. Instead of building his faith in God, these victories seem to have given David a confidence in himself, his armies, and his possessions. In 1 Chronicles 21:1-6, he calls for a census to be made of Israel. Aaron shared on Sunday that David was putting his trust in his treasure, his possessions, not in God.

SCRIPTURE

¹Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. ²So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, “Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are.” ³But Joab replied, “May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord’s subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?” ⁴The king’s word, however, overruled Joab; so Joab left and went throughout Israel and then came back to Jerusalem. ⁵Joab reported the number of the fighting men to David: In all Israel there were one million one hundred thousand men who could handle a sword, including four hundred and seventy thousand in Judah. ⁶But Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, because the king’s command was repulsive to him.

1 Chronicles 21:1-6

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. If your house was burning down, what three things (not people or pets) would you save, and why?
2. What do you think when you first read the words, “*Satan rose up against Israel and incited David...*”? Could David say, “*The devil made me do it*”?
3. There are a number of censuses listed in the Old Testament (Numbers 1:1-3, Numbers 3:14-15, Numbers 4:21-22, 46-48, 2 Chronicles 2:17-18, Ezra 2). Some are ordered by God, and none get the reaction that happens when David takes the census in 1 Chronicles 21:1-6. Read the passage; why do you think it was wrong of David to take a census?
4. What do the following passages say about those who trust in possessions?

Proverbs 11:28

Luke 12:16-21

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Study Questions for Community Groups

5. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says you cannot serve two masters – God and mammon (money) (Matthew 6:19-24). God looks at your finances – what you spend money on and how you give – as a barometer of the condition of your heart. What are some ways you try to serve both God and money? What does this say about the condition of your heart?

Read Psalm 50:9-12 and Deuteronomy 8:18. Does knowing that God is the owner of everything you have, and that He is the one who has given you everything you have, affect what you do with your money? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

Plan to attend *An Evening with Dave Ramsey* on Thursday, November 9, 6:30PM-8:30PM in Fellowship's Youth Room. Hear Dave Ramsey speak in a pre-recorded teaching about how to achieve financial peace, and learn how to leverage your treasure for the glory of God.

Consider participating in the nine-week Financial Peace University class will begin on Thursday, January 18.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Read 1 Chronicles 21:7-17. What was the result of David's decision to take a census? How many men died because of David's sin (1 Chronicles 21:14)?
2. What was David's response (1 Chronicles 21:17)? What does this show about his heart?
3. Read 1 Chronicles 21:18-30. Why do you think David would not allow Ornan to give him the threshing floor? What application does that have for your worship?