

Sermon Title: Growing and Giving

Sermon by Pastor Fred Oaks

Week of October 10, 2010

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: What images or feelings do you associate with the word revival?

Big Idea: Revival is a gift of God and joyful celebration its natural result.

Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 29-31 (key excerpts listed here)

Chapter 29

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. **2** He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. **3** In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them. **4** He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side **5** and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD, the God of your fathers. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. **6** Our fathers were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. **7** They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. **8** Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. **9** This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. **10** Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. **11** My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn

incense."

18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: "We have purified the entire temple of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles.

27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel. **28** The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped. **30** King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped.

31 Then Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the LORD. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the LORD." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.

Chapter 30

1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.

23 The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully.

26 There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

Chapter 31

1 When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After

they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

20 This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. **21** In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.

Group Questions:

1. If you have your Bible, read the few preceding verses to our study text, 2 Chronicles 28:22-27. What impression did King Ahaz's reign leave on his kingdom? On his family? On the Lord?
2. Considering the verses we have read from this week's scripture selection, note some differences between King Ahaz's legacy and that of his son, Hezekiah.
3. Read 29:8-10. What motivated Hezekiah to reestablish a covenant with the Lord?
4. In what ways did the people participate in this corporate expression of commitment to Yahweh?
5. According to Chronicles 29:31b-35, the people responded in a very tangible way to their restored relationship with the Lord. What convictions must have preceded their response?

How will I live it? Apply it?

1. What role does acknowledging and repenting of one's sin to God play in our ability to authentically worship?
2. What does renewed worship mean to you? Have you been sensing a prompting, a nudging toward a fresh start with God?
3. Describe an experience you've had with personal spiritual renewal and/or a church experiencing revival.
4. What role have church leaders played in your spiritual growth?
5. Within the body of the church, what are some ways that you can express commitment to God, joy, celebration, and gratefulness?

Prayer Requests and Praises: