

The Stewardship of Generations: *Our Church*

(1 Chronicles 29:1-18)

Vision: *Thirsty Souls Restored, Lives Changed, and Joyful Disciples worshipping Christ*

Mission: 'Leading ALL GENERATIONS to love God, follow Jesus, and model His mission to transform *all* peoples and nations with the gospel'

-Summary: All Generations Worshipping God

Series: "The Stewardship of Generations"

The goal of this series is to help us learn to **TRUST** God the Giver, to see trust as act of worship!

*Our truest worship begins in the *yielding* of our self, our desires, our possessions *to* God in order to have the Lord **replace** things we hold in this life with the *insatiable desire for Him most.*

=**He becomes the prize!**

All we are (life; breath; body; future) **and all we have** (what we touch) **belongs to HIM:** *believe?*

-Our **Families** belong to Jesus (we give them back *as soon as* we get them) -**Child dedication?**

-Our **Jobs** belong to Jesus (He alone gives us power to make wealth)

-Our **Church** belongs to Jesus (His Bride is worth our best effort to serve & bless)

Today: The Stewardship of our CHURCH.

*Main Point: Our Church belongs to Jesus first; This is *HIS* Bride; He died to purchase her & He is fiercely protective of her. We are called to steward His Bride/the Church in our lives with deep care, reverence, sacrifice, and joy!

The Church Universal/Local: = The Church is a family of families!

-Why David? Why did God choose David? Why did God choose David knowing his future sin?

*In spite of David's sin nature, immaturity, inexperience, and low birth = God saw David's heart. -1 Sam. 16:7 "They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."

-Even at young age, David had a heart *for* the Lord. To **love** the LORD with *all* His heart; *yielded*

-David was fiercely **loyal**; He was a shepherd (*lowly*), but protected his sheep w/ his **life**. *sacrific*

-David fought for the honor and **glory** of God at all cost (*Goliath*) -*jealous for glory of GOD!*

-David never sought to take **credit** for God's work in his life (*slew 10K warriors*)

-David was **given** to worship; his heart was full of praise for the God of the Universe (*Psalms*)

What could God not do with a heart like this? What would God not do for a man who doesn't want the credit? but will bow low before God, get out of the way, so God gets **all** the glory.....

=The Lord *blessed* David; the Lord *used* David mightily; the Lord *forgave* David. = Hope for me

Solomon = *son of Bathsheba* (Uriah's wife whom David stole, violated, impregnated, & later

married) -God took David's sin & forgave him; God brought redemption from ashes! *Sol.=Temple*

READ 1 Chronicles 29: 1-18

Vs.1: Then King David said to the entire assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced, and the work is great; **for the temple is not for mankind, but for the Lord God.**² Now with *all my ability* I have provided for the house of my God the gold for the *things of* gold, the silver for the *things of* silver, the bronze for the *things of* bronze, the iron for the *things of* iron, wood for the *things of* wood, onyx stones and inlaid *stones*, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance. ³ In addition, **in my delight** in the house of my God, the treasure I

have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, **over and above all that I have already provided** for the holy ^[b]temple, ⁴ *namely*, three thousand talents of gold (22k lbs), from the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver (500k lbs), to overlay the walls of the ^[d]buildings; ⁵ gold for the *things of* gold and silver for the *things of* silver, that is, for all the work ^[e]done by the craftsmen. **Who then is willing ^[f]to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?** [lit. fill his hand/grab all he can]

⁶ Then the rulers of the fathers' *households*, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and hundreds, with the supervisors of the king's work, **offered willingly**; ⁷ and for the service of the house of God they gave five thousand talents and ten thousand ^[g]darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of brass, and a hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸ ^[h]Whoever possessed *precious* stones gave *them* to the treasury of the house of the Lord, ^[i]in care of Jehiel the Gershonite. **Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord wholeheartedly**, and King David also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰ So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and on the earth; Yours is the dominion, Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. ¹² **Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.** ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴ "But who am I and who are my people that we should ^[j]be able to offer as generously as this? **For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given to You.**

¹⁵ For we are strangers before You, and temporary residents, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶ Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, **it is from Your hand**, and everything is Yours. ¹⁷ Since I know, my God, that **You put the heart to the test** and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, I have willingly offered all these *things*; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, **make their offerings willingly to You.** ¹⁸ Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intentions of the hearts of Your people, and direct their hearts to You;

-This passage is about faithful **stewardship** of the Lord's Temple/House:

= *Preparing* for it; *providing* to build it; & *praising* God for it! =**WHY? God's glory!**

1. The Lord's House (Temple/Church) is a holy place **dedicated** for the Lord's honor, glory, and His divine **use** (God's people gather [for the saints]; Prayers are offered; Worship is given; Word is preached; **His Spirit is unleashed** to change lives; people testify; Conviction; Confession; Repentance; Restoration; Salvation; Calling into Obedience)=weekly discipleship

Vs. 1: for the temple is not for mankind, but for the Lord God. God's house =God's glory

Unlike our home, our work, our sports arenas, **this** is Holy ground: *consecrated* space; a space *dedicated*/set apart for the Lord's glory/Lord's work. We don't own it – **He does.** (*not* forever; but **temporary** -and for a divine purpose = GLORY and Changed lives = worship = GLORY!

2. David gave to the Lord out of a heart of gratitude, **sacrifice**, and worship

Vs. 2: Now with **all my ability** I have provided for the house of my God the gold for the *things of gold*, the silver for the *things of silver*, the bronze for the *things of bronze*, the iron for the *things of iron*, wood for the *things of wood*, onyx stones and inlaid stones, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance. David leaned in to the need & made sacrifices to provide for the needs of the Temple...w/**all my ability**

-Luke 12:48 "To whom much has been given, much is required." =**stewardship of wealth**/riches

*This was already David's heart posture-to give sacrificially to the Lord.

-1 Chr. 21:24 (2 Sam. 24) "I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God **that cost me nothing**." **Sacrifices are costly: giving up X for another!**

3. David led by **example** for the Israelites and gave to the Lord's Temple project with **joy** and above and beyond His normal **tithe**. David led a life and culture of sacrificial giving.

Vs. 3: In addition, **in my delight** [joy] in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, **over and above all that I have already provided** for the holy temple. David *tithed*; David gave an *offering*; **then**, David gave even *more* sac. of praise

The tithe was instituted in the Law of Moses to guide Israelites' heart what/how to give:

-Lev. 27:30 "A tithe/10th of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." Tithe was holy, set-apart for holy purpose

-2 Chronicles 31:5 "As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously provided the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, oil, and honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought in an abundance—a tithe of everything."

-Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and **put Me to the test now in this**," says the Lord of armies, "if I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until ^[a]it overflows." God dared *em* to trust Him w/ \$\$\$

TODAY=Giving to the Lord needs to come from a heart of gratitude & Joy (though **costly).**

-2Cor. 9:7 "Each one *must do* just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver." -we give out of the overflow of worship/gratitude-

*******why would we choose to give LESS now than a tithe (not under an obligation) BUT now knowing what we know & having all we have? In light of the N.T, the cross, and salvation....???**

-Worship is fueled by a heart of **JOY** (thankfulness); **-What do you have to be thankful for?**

*Notice how David's leadership in the **home** shaped his children's theology & **generosity**:

Solomon witnessed his dad's generosity; his leadership; and his example in the home -**sacrifice**

-Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord from your wealth, from the first (firstfruits/TITHE) of all your produce; Then your barns will be filled with plenty, your vats will overflow with new wine."

-Proverbs 11:24 "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want"

4. The result of David's leadership, example, and challenge was that his then Leaders gave faithfully to the Temple Project. =Leaders are to lead out in their example & sacrifice.

Vs. 6: Then the rulers of the fathers' *households*, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and hundreds, with the supervisors of the king's work, **offered willingly**; Not all are called or gifted to lead. Some are. BUT, Leaders are to lead by **example**.

-They offer their lives as models to show others the way...to lead, help, serve others =mission!
Elders are called to lead/give sacrificially – As the **LEAD Elder** I need to model for them....
Deacons are called to give/serve sacrificially
Staff are called to serve/model sacrificially

5. The result of David's leadership, and the leaders of Israel's example and challenge, was that God's people *then* gave generously and sacrificially to the Lord's Temple project.

Vs. 9: Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord wholeheartedly[whole heart] and King David also rejoiced greatly.

-Whole heart = NOT begrudgingly; not in doubt; not grumbling; not pouting; no excuses...

=The call of God on God's people is to follow God's leaders and follow/give/serve faithfully

Then David reminded everyone in Israel (all of God's people) **why** they are to give to the Lord:

A. Everything we have comes from God. He already owns it all. We give back in grateful response to His giving all to us. We are to *steward* what He entrusts to us...food/money

Vs. 12: Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. ¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name. ¹⁴ "But who am I and who are my people that we should ¹⁵ be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given to You.

B. God calls us to give back to Him (to His local Church) HIS Bride, as a test to see if we believe what we proclaim – That He is *Lord*; That He is *sovereign*; That He *owns* it all anyway; That He is *worthy* of our sacrifice; That our life, time, money, and gifts are *His first* = That we are simply stewards of what He has entrusted to us!! -**Parable of Talents Mt. 25**

Vs. 17: Since I know, my God, that You put the heart to the test and delight in uprightness, [our right/holy response] -thus ...I, in the integrity of my heart, I have willingly [joyfully] offered all these things; so now **with joy** I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You.

C. Every GENERATION is watching to see if *this* generation will be faithful & sacrificial to carry the gospel onward – NO matter what...no matter what it costs us (our money, our comfort, our livelihoods, our very lives....all for the sake of the gospel). =If we won't – why would they?****

****David's prayer: Vs. 18:** Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intentions of the hearts of Your people, and direct their hearts to You; =sacrifice/worship
Ronald Reagan famously stated, "*Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction*" True of the gospel? Missions movement? The Faithful Church? Right theology???

****Your sacrificial giving shows His worth to the world and the worth of who He really is**
- and that sacrifice is delightful to Him, to bring Him glory and us great joy =watching us

*We don't pass the plate (bc everyone is watching) & we want your motivation to be to give out of a heart of gratitude -NOT compulsion, NOT bc is watching, NOT bc someone is expecting ...

Our ultimate motivation in giving is looking to the Lord Jesus. Even though He was rich -He became poor; that through His poverty, we might become rich =Eternal Salvation. God has modeled for us sacrificial giving -to give us what matters, to give to what is eternal, to give to what brings great glory to God. This is essential in the heart of giving. This is gospel at work.

APPLICATION:

We seek to teach on giving because it's good for our soul; in our relationship with God more than our relationship with the world. If we love the things of the world, we hate God. This speaks to the deepest soul need = Investing in the promises of Jesus rather than investing in a promises of the world with your money.

It's impossible to disconnect a heart from one's money. To give is an act stewardship of investing in eternal things, more than physical things, and the immediate return of investment in earthly things. The ROI is **eternal**. **This matters to God, which means it should matter to us.**

****Faithful Giving helps set us free from the love the money**

*****Faithful Giving teaches us true dependence on God.**

******Faithful Giving reflects spiritual maturity. It shows trust and the priorities of the Lord.**

Church Budgets are Windows into what the church believes; a window into the heart of the church = illuminating the values and priorities of God's people.
= Missions? Discipleship? Next Generation??

The budget is a communication tool. We prioritize what we invest in.

****If every cov. member family tithed + \$10mill; If every attending family = \$30million.**

Community Group Questions

- 1. David says in verse 1 that the work is great because the temple is not for man, but for the LORD. What does this teach us about the difference between doing something *for God* and doing something *for ourselves*? How could we subtly make ministry, generosity, or serving about our own reputation?**
- 2. In verses 2-5, David gives generously and then asks, "Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?" Why do you think David connects generosity with consecration?**
Notice that David doesn't merely ask, "Who will give?" He asks, essentially, "Who will give himself?"
What is the difference between giving God something and giving God yourself?
- 3. Verses 6-9 describe the leaders and people willingly giving, and verse 9 says they rejoiced because they had given freely. What does this teach us about the relationship between generosity and joy?**
Why do you think biblical generosity produced joy rather than resentment?
Have you ever experienced the surprising joy that comes from giving something away sacrificially?
Consider: Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
- 4. David's prayer in verses 10-13 begins not with the people's giving but with God's greatness: "Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory..." Why is worship the proper starting point for biblical stewardship? How does seeing God's greatness change the way we view our possessions?**
What attributes of God in verses 10-13 should shape our attitude toward money and possessions?
How might our financial decisions look different if we genuinely believed that **God owns everything**?
****Key Truth:** We become more generous when we have a bigger view of God. How big is your view of Him?

5. Verse 14 contains one of the most profound stewardship statements in Scripture: "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For everything comes from You, and from Your hand we have given You." How does this statement challenge the idea that "my money is mine"? What percentage of what you possess ultimately came from God?

How does this perspective affect your attitude toward your home, career, possessions, abilities, time, and finances?

6. In verses 15–16, David reminds Israel that their lives are temporary and their possessions ultimately belong to God. How should the reality of our short lives affect the way we use what God has entrusted to us? David essentially says, *"We're passing through. Everything we have came from You."*

- Why is remembering our mortality spiritually healthy?
- What possessions or accomplishments are you most tempted to hold onto tightly?
- If you knew you had only a few years left, what might change about the way you spend your **time, money, energy, and influence**?
- What kind of spiritual legacy do you want to leave behind?

7. Verse 17 says, "I know, my God, that You test the heart and delight in uprightness." What does this passage reveal about God's concern with our hearts rather than merely our outward giving?

- Why can someone give generously while still having a selfish heart?
- What might God see when He examines your attitude toward money and possessions?
- Is generosity something you do because you **have to**, because you **want to**, or because you recognize everything belongs to God?

What is one concrete step God may be asking you to take toward greater generosity, surrender, or stewardship?