

A lesson on Thanksgiving from 1 Chronicles 29

Gifts for Building the Temple

1 Chronicles 29:1-5 ¹ Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. ² With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. ³ Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴ three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵ for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. **Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”**

- In this passage, what did King David do as an act of Worship and Thanksgiving to God?
He gave sacrificially and with joy to the work of the LORD. He chose to serve God as an act of worship and to model leadership to God's people.

Consecrate = The Hebrew word: **מָלֵא** - *male'* means to fill or to fulfill or accomplish.

- What is King David asking the people when he says in verse 5, “Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”
David is challenging them to step up to fill in the gap to accomplish God's work. He is challenging people to follow His lead in serving and giving.

1 Chronicles 29:6-9 ⁶ Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work **gave willingly**. ⁷ They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸ Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹ The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

- What was the response of the leaders? What words describe their attitude in their response?
They willingly gave! They gave towards God's work as an act of thanksgiving and obedience.

The words that describe the attitude are: they gave willingly, they gave their best, they rejoiced in giving, they gave freely (no arm twisting), they gave wholeheartedly to the LORD which shows commitment.

- How did the people react in response to the leaders?
The people rejoiced and also gave willingly

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

David's Prayer

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

*“Praise be to you, LORD,
the God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
¹² Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.*

- What do you learn about why we Worship from this passage?

We worship Him because of his attributes: He is everlasting, great, power, glory, majesty, splendor. We worship because everything is His. He is above all. Everything we have comes from God. He rules. He controls, He provides, He enables us.

- What do we learn about Thanksgiving from this passage?

We have more reasons to give thanks than we can express. Out of gratitude we should give thanks. Understanding that all we have is His and is from His hand we should willingly with joy give back to the LORD and offering of Thanksgiving.

Evergreen Valley Church family, I encourage you to adopt the reading of 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 into your Thanksgiving meal prayer this year.