

A lesson on Thanksgiving from 1 Chronicles 29

Gifts for Building the Temple Continued...

Before you begin your study, review the message in our reading from last week found in 1 Chronicles 29:1-13

1 Chronicles 29:14-16 ¹⁴ “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵ We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶ LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

- What is David expressing to the LORD in response to their ability to give generously with thanks in verse 14?

David is expressing gratitude and humility and that it is only because of God's blessing that they can give. He has no reason to feel proud or generous since it all comes from God anyway.

- What can we learn about our attitude toward giving with thanks?

We should give with joy, humility, and gratitude toward God knowing we wouldn't have our blessings if he didn't provide for us.

1 Chronicles 29:17 ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

- What is David referring to in verse 17 when he states that God tests the heart of integrity and willingness?

God wants people to give out of gratitude, not obligation. He wants our gifts to be worship, not show. He wants our joy to be real, not counterfeit.

- What is giving David joy?

David is filled with joy to see how God's people are also giving with joy and gratitude toward God and offer of Thanksgiving.

Real gratitude, joy, and thanksgiving is contagious!

1 Chronicles 29:18 ¹⁸ LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. ¹⁹ And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

- In verse 18 David is praying that the desires and thoughts of the people for serving and giving to the LORD with joy and thanksgiving would remain in their hearts. In addition he is praying for obedience to God. Take a moment to stop your study right now and pray for God's people to serve and give with joy and thanksgiving to the LORD and to follow God in complete surrender and obedience.

1 Chronicles 29:20 ²⁰ Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.” So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king.

- In this final verse David and the people respond to God in praise and complete submission. Why are they praising God? What words would you use to describe how God’s people feel about God? **God has given them every blessing and provided in every way. That is the essence of Thanksgiving is an acknowledgement of God's blessing and abundance in our lives.**

Thanksgiving Prayer: 1 Chronicles 29:10-12

*“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.*