**PP Generous Hearts and Open Hands**

**Part 2-The *joy of* generosity 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 Pew bible p. 356 1/20-21/2024**

**PP** C.S. Lewis insightfully commented on sacrificial giving: *“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.*

*In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the*

*standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our*

*charitable expenditures excludes them.”* C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Does giving generously and sacrificially excite you?

It will when God works in your heart with a desire to open your hands to the poor and needy

It will when He transforms your heart to joyfully give to support the work of His kingdom

And we are about to see one man give so joyfully that it stirred an entire nation to generosity

**PP Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9**

**PP 1-Joyful generosity is purposeful**

**PP *“And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has***

***chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be***

***for man but for the LORD God. So I have provided for the house of my God”* 29:1–2a**

David, the king of Israel, wanted to build a house for God, a temple, but God wouldn’t let him

and we are told why: **PP *“David said to Solomon, ‘My son, I had it in my heart to build***

***a house to the name of the LORD my God. But the word of the LORD came to me,***

***saying, “You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a***

***house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.”’”***

**1 Chronicles 22:7–8**

Yet David’s zeal to build a house for God consumed him, and he said, **PP *“‘the house that is to***

***be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout***

***all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it. So David provided materials in great***

***quantity before his death.”* 1 Chronicles 22:5**

Let’s make sure that we understand something very important about David

He is the most frequently mentioned person in the Old Testament, the second most in the bible

Even with all his flaws, the bible described him as a man after God’s heart

He was anointed by God to save and rule His people, and he imperfectly represented the perfect

Messiah who would come 1,000 years later, Jesus Christ

David wrote of his zeal for God’s house, and later it would be applied to Jesus: **PP *“His disciples***

***remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”* John 2:17**

Zeal burned in David’s heart for God’s house and he opened wide his hands in generosity

**PP** Is there a great desire in your heart to give toward the work of the kingdom of God?

Our church is the kingdom of God made visible, but the kingdom is greater than just our church

**PP** The kingdom of God is the rule and reign of King Jesus on earth, and John Calvin said the

*‘task of the church is to make the invisible kingdom visible’*

Our open hands that support the works of God’s kingdom is part of what makes it visible

Ministries around the world operating in the name of Christ by feeding the poor, providing

clothes for children, helping victims of disasters…the kingdom of God

It is for this reason that Denise and I only give toward that which makes God’s kingdom visible

We give to this church first and mostly; we support missionaries; we support ministries; and we

give as the Lord leads to those in need, sometimes with money, or meals, or hospitality

**PP *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father,***

***inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was***

***hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger***

***and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me,***

***I was in prison and you came to Me.’”* Matthew 25:34-36**

Denise and I give to the point where we aren’t able to afford extravagant vacations or a luxurious

home and we have zero regrets!

In fact, we’re praying for God to help us give even more generously not only for the needs of

others and the furtherance of God’s kingdom, but to wage war against our flesh’s love for

the things of this world

We want, like David, a single-minded love for God’s house, both His Church and His kingdom

We are about to see the extent of David’s love for the house of God

**PP 2-Joyful generosity is sacrificial**

***“So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver.”* 29:2-5a**

David gave a large sum of his own money toward the building of God’s house but amazingly,

this is the second time he gave sacrificially

**PP *“With great pains I have provided for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold, a***

***million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of***

***it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add.”* 1 Chronicles 22:14**

Let’s see if we can understand this in today’s prices

1 talent =75 pounds, which is 1,200 ounces, and two weeks ago a gold ounce was $2,028

**PP** 100,000 talents=120,000,000 ounces of gold=$243,360,000,000

Silver two weeks ago was $23.14 per ounce, and **PP** 1,000,000 talents=1,200,000,000

ounces=$27,768,000,000

Together, in today’s prices, it totals **PP** $271,128,000,000 and this was his first gift, for the house

of God

Let’s look at his second gift of **PP** ***“3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents***

***of refined silver”***

**PP** 3000 talents of gold is $7,300,800,000, 7,000 talents of silver is $194,376,000, together

totaling $7,495,176,000for David’s second personal gift to God’s house

Both gifts together are almost $280 billion

***‘With great pains’*** he gave these amounts, so far as he was able

Would you ask yourself right now, are you giving of your possessions and monies to the

kingdom of God and the poor and needy as far as you are able, to the point of great pain?

It is common for American Christians to give out of our excess, and it does not really reduce us

Are you giving generously to God’s kingdom, and the needy, to the point where you don’t have

an excess, the point where you must live by faith?

Missionary Paul Beals once explained that the wealthy make contributions, but generous poor

make a sacrifice

He realized that he and his wife had never given sacrificially even though they thought they were

Once they even took some money out of savings to give to a special project, but that giving

never jeopardized their livelihood

David lived far below his means, never using his wealth to expand his kingdom beyond the

boundaries God set

He began no public works that would be memorials to his greatness, no buildings made with

bricks that had his name on it, no streets or parks named after him

God forbade the kings of Israel from accumulating wealth for themselves

Creating wealth is a good thing, accumulating wealth for yourself is not

Christian, earn as much money as you can, but you and I are not to accumulate it, stockpile it

beyond what we truly need for our families

When God gives wealth, it is to meet the needs of the one who receives it, and through that

person’s generosity, meet the needs of the poor and finance the kingdom of God

We are about to see that generous Christians have a powerful effect on communities, and

churches in particular

**PP 3-Joyful generosity is contagious**

***“Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the LORD? Then the leaders of fathers’ houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king’s work. They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron. And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.”* 1 Ch 29:5b-9**

When we come to the New Testament, we discover that the Law of the tithe is not reaffirmed,

but something much better is taught…cheerful and willing generosity!

There was no guilting from David, no badgering, no manipulation

He testified publicly how much he gave not out of pride, but as an example of his love for God

And his example was contagious, for the leaders of Israel **PP** ***“gave for the service of the house***

***of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of***

***bronze and 100,000 talents of iron”* 29:7**

A ***‘daric’*** was ¼ ounce, so we can easily put the gold and silver amounts in today’s prices

The amount of gold the leaders in Israel gave was $18,252,000,000

The amount of silver they gave was $277,680,000 totaling $18,529,680,000

Add in 1.35 million pounds of bronze, and 7.5 million pounds of iron plus precious stones

No wonder that **PP *“the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole***

***heart they had offered freely to the Lord.”* 29:9**

A whole heart is one that loves God and NOT the things of this world, not your own pleasure

Generosity is contagious, and it brings joy, but not just to us in Christian community

**PP *“David the king also rejoiced greatly.”* 29:9**

Christian, your joyful generosity brings joy to the King of kings, Jesus Christ!

It speaks of your loving trust in Him, and your love for His kingdom, and those in need

Amen!