

## No Cents Week 4- Thanksgiving Offering

*True generosity springs from the heart, not the hand. God is always more concerned with what is happening in your heart than what is in your hand. This is the way God relates to us and the way He desires for us to relate to Him. When we seek the hand of God more than the heart of God, the relationship weakens. But, when we delight in Him because of who He is, then generosity flows. We experience the depths of His generosity and it flows from our hearts, through our hands, to others.*

### **1 Chronicles 29:10-20 NASB**

*10) So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11) "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O 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 be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. 15) "For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. 16) "O 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 all is Yours. 17) "Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, 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) "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; 19) and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision." 20) Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and bowed low and did homage to the LORD and to the king.*

### **Heart of Generosity: 1 Chronicles 17-29**

***Generosity springs from the heart, not the hand.***

### **1 Chronicles 22:5b NASB**

*"...and the house that is to be built for the LORD shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands."*

### **1 Chronicles 29:3 NASB**

*Moreover, 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 temple,*

- Delight: *to take great pleasure, joy, extreme satisfaction*
- NIV-Devotion KJV: *Affection*
- Value of David's offering: \$867.5 million

*Here is David's motivation for his generosity. It is not out of **obligation**; it is not out of other people's **expectations**; it is not out of **guilt**. It is out of delight. It was his **desire** to give; it was his **pleasure** to give; it was his **joy** to give. In other words, David gives because of the state of his heart.*

- David didn't give so much because he had so much. He didn't think, "Well, I have some to spare for this project." He gave because of his heart.
- David's generosity wasn't more special than the widow in Mark 12

#### **Mark 12:42-44 NASB**

*A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."*

#### 1. A GENEROUS heart has ETERNAL significance

- God promised David that he and his line would be "king forever." (1 Chr. 28:4) We know that even though David died, like all men die, that through his line, Jesus Christ will establish an eternal kingdom.
- God's promise to you is that through you and your line, He will establish His Kingdom.

#### **Revelation 1:6 (KJV)**

*6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

#### 2. A GENEROUS heart has GENERATIONAL impact

#### **1 Chronicles 28:9-10 (NASB)**

*"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act."*

- God said that David's son Solomon would reign and build the Temple. (1 Chr. 28:6)
- This is one of the great joys of parenthood - to see your children succeed and excel. If there's one thing in life better than having a great achievement of your own, it's seeing

your child achieve it! I have an idea that for David, there was greater satisfaction in seeing Solomon build the Temple, than in doing it himself.

- While we need to teach our children stewardship, we shouldn't teach them stinginess.
- Notice David's charge included to know and serve God, motivation, and promises
- The evidence of generosity to your children will not be bank accounts but your charge for them to know the Father.

3. A GENEROUS heart embraces the ANOINTING and ASSIGNMENT from the Lord

### **1 Chronicles 17:16 NASB**

*Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?"*

- David wanted to build the Lord a house but when God tells him that he will not build it, we see humility in David, not resentment. We see generosity, not entitlement
- David didn't get stuck in what he could do but instead looked for what He could do.
- A generous heart will keep your eyes on what God is doing instead of what you are unable to do

### **1 Chronicles 28:19 NASB**

*"All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern."*

- David received divine revelation. This asserts to the "inspiring hand of the Lord."
- Parallel to 2 Kings 3:15 "When the minstrel played, the hand of the Lord came upon him."

4. A GENEROUS heart results in a life that MATTERS

- God provided the nation and David with an immense amount of wealth to use in building the Temple through surrounding lands they had conquered.
- International peace so that the resources never dried up
- There is blessing and provision that God will release in our lives as we delight in Him.
- The victories in your life are ways in which God provides what is needed in the building of His kingdom

### **Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)**

*10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.*

- Compare David's "delight in the house of my God" and Solomon's "delight in all of my labor."

- Solomon had nothing to show for all of his work because he took delight in all of his labor
- God shows us the key to a life that matters

### **Matthew 5:16 MSG**

*Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.*

David's generous gift of gold and silver was used as overlaying for the walls and for the craftsman to design decoration. It wasn't used for the essential structure but for extravagant beauty. *"...and the house that is to be built for the LORD shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands."* God uses your generosity to show the world the glory of God.

As we bring our Thanksgiving Offering today...

***The level of generosity in our lives is proportioned to the level of delight in our lives.***

### **1 Chronicles 29:5b**

*Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"*

**Hebrew Translation:** Who is willing to fill his hand to the Lord?

*It's a word picture - an image we are to form in our minds. The image is of filling your hand with things to sacrifice to God, and then holding it up to Him. Imagine this, instead of holding up an empty cup to God, asking Him to fill it for our benefit, David is holding up a full hand to God, asking Him to take it, for His benefit.*