YOUR LEGACY OF GENEROSITY 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

This teaching from God's Word has the power to change your legacy forever. IF you will hear it, believe it, and practice it.

One of my favorite bumper stickers is "Live so the preacher doesn't have to lie at your funeral"
True confession - I've done hundreds of funerals and I've come close to lying at many of them.
Why? Because the deceased didn't take their LEGACY seriously. Do we?

Big Idea: Your true legacy is to live and give generously for what matters eternally.

Today we are going to look at the **LEGACY of King David** and see what HE prioritized in the building of his legacy. In your Bibles go to 1 Chronicles 29.

What is a "Legacy"? Something passed on to those coming behind you - money, property, values, faith, character, reputation, skills, etc.
It's the kind of baton YOU hand to the next generation for them to run with!
For LLCF, it's the kind of church we are building today that we will pass on to our children tomorrow.
5 years ago when Deb & I passed the church off to Sean and Joel, there was a legacy that came with it.

In 1 Chronicles 29 David invests in two things he will never see completed:
1) God's temple that his son Solomon will build 2) In the discipleship and mission of Solomon.
Let me set the context for you.
David has already prepared building materials for the temple from the national funds but NOW in vss. 1-4 he gives PERSONALLY from his own storehouse and HE GIVES GENEROUSLY - the equivalent of over a billion dollars of gold alone!
Then he asks in **vs 5** - WHO WILL JOIN ME BY INVESTING in GOD'S HOLY WORK?
"Who will join me in building a legacy for the next generation??
And the leaders and others respond by Giving Generously!
And **vs. 9** says "everyone rejoiced greatly b/c they had given "FREELY & WHOLEHEARTEDLY" to something **that would bring people to God and glory to God**!
Generosity to what matters eternally WILL ALWAYS bring Great JOY!

David responds with the LAST RECORDED PRAYER OF HIS LIFE - IT'S A Prayer That Teaches Us About LEGACY - 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

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.

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**.

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.**

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."

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.

WHAT A PRAYER!! After David's prayer, **Solomon is crowned** as the new King of Israel, then the chapter ends with the **death of David**…and his opportunity to leave a LEGACY is finished.
David was far from perfect. He blew it big time more than once. I've blown it too? Anyone else?
Good news - Blowing it doesn't have to destroy your legacy!
Overall David lived to glorify God and he left an amazing legacy…How?
By living and giving generously to what mattered Eternally!
And A key part of the legacy of David was to prepare something for the next generation!

As I studied David's prayer it prompted **6 Legacy Questions** every Christian needs to answer honestly -

Six Legacy Questions:

1. Do I really believe God is the source of all I have?
This is an Ownership vs. Stewardship question -

11 - for everything in heaven and earth is yours
14 "Everything comes from you, & we have given you only what comes from your hand.

David saw himself not as an **owner** but as a **steward** -
A steward is Someone who manages what comes from and belongs to someone else.

**When I was pastoring LL sometimes I would ask the church - How much of your $$ belongs to God?
And someone would shout - "10%"! But then others would shout the right answer - 100%!
If EVERYTHING comes from him, I own 0% & I am a steward of 100% of it.
I need to ask God what HE wants me to do with ALL of HIS money?
Someone will argue - "Well God didn't put in 55 hours at the job this week…I did!"

That's right but did you need a heartbeat to do those 55 hours? Yes you did. And what did you do to start your heart beating in your mothers womb? I am pretty sure God did that, not you.
When you see all of life as a GIFT then Generosity comes much easier! Pride blocks generosity!

2. Am I investing in an earthly or eternal legacy?
This is a "Temporary vs. Permanent" question

We will ALL leave a legacy. You can't escape that.
People are going to say something about you at your funeral.
You are **investing** your life - **your time, talents, treasure** into something. What is it?
You are **building** something with your life…if you are building an **earthly legacy** - something that only has value in this life -your legacy will be gone as soon as you are forgotten…
*Did you know the average person has no one that remembers their name within 80 years of their death?
But if you are building a spiritual, eternal legacy, your name will NEVER be forgotten.

15 David prays "**Our days on earth are like a shadow"** - gone as quickly as the sun sets.
Sadly a lot of you are investing in shadows…
But by contrast David prays
17 - "...And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people… have <u>given</u> <u>to you</u>….
18 keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people <u>forever</u>,

David was praying for the church to keep investing in what will last eternally…forever.

**Two elderly people from the same town were dying on the same night.
One was a wealthy man who had selfishly lived for his own comfort and pleasure.
The other was a poor widow who had lived generously to bless others and build her church.
The wealthy man's last words were… "I'm leaving it all…I'm leaving it all"
The widow's last words were… "I'm going to it all…I am going to it all"

God tells us in the NT even Christians can build a temporary legacy instead of an eternal legacy.
1 Cor 3:12-15 - *If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.*
Some of you meet Christ but you keep building with wood, hay and straw and your legacy is going to burn up instead of bring you eternal reward! 14 min.

3. Do I really believe "I can't outgive God?"
This is a question of Sacrifice vs. Reward

I love how David's Prayer and this entire chapter brings together Generosity and Joy!
22 - They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day
**Did you know Research has proved that generous people are the happiest people.

We have a saying around here **"You can't outgive God"**!
Why? Because it's Biblical and because we've seen it as a church.
Malachi 3:10 - *Bring the **whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me in this**," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not **pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it**.*
This is crazy - God says here "Bring it on! See if you can outgive me!"

When you give to God's HOUSE FIRST, you bring God's BLESSING to YOUR House! 15

*Planting CoC…Gave away 20% of our tithers…the Board was afraid we'd go broke.
I never told Pastor Brian you can only recruit no more than 50 people.
Why? We believed that you can't outgive God.
What happened? It was tough on our finances but a few months later we received the largest Christ Birthday offering ever…and we ended with the most $$ ever in our church bank account.

God calls us to sacrifice but it's only temporary sacrifice. What do I mean?
If we sacrifice to give to God's work…God will sooner or later REWARD us in a way that FAR exceeds the sacrifice! So was it a sacrifice? Yes in the moment and for a season it was…but not in the end!

4. What am I investing in today that will bear fruit after I am gone?
This is a question of Addition vs. Multiplication

I want to shift gears here to the second kind of legacy David is focused on in this passage.
He was investing in his son, Solomon.
He was discipling him in this chapter. Watch how he did it here…
1) He gives credibility to his Son in front of others.
2) He assures his son that God has chosen him to do great things.
3) He gives a powerful example to his son by giving generously to provide for building the temple.
4) He prays for his son to stay loyal to God, to keep God's commands.
5) He gives his son a mission to carry out…to build the temple, the church.
6) He handed off his position to his son to carry forward.

David's example should sound familiar to you…Why? B/C this is what Jesus did with his disciples.
AND this is what Jesus asks EVERY believer to invest in.
It's called the GREAT COMMISSION - Jesus' last words to his disciples in the gospel of Matthew were, GO MAKE DISCIPLES! Do with others what I have done with you! This will be your legacy!
Jesus had 3 years to start a worldwide movement. (19)
He could have chosen to preach to thousands every day.
Instead he focused 75% of his time on investing in his 12 disciples. They were his legacy.
Why did Jesus do that?
Because he knew 12 disciples who were disciple-makers were bigger than a crowd of consumers.
Jesus was investing in MULTIPLICATION not Addition.

Most Christians in America have NEVER obeyed Jesus' great commission commandment to "Go and make disciples". They are missing God's legacy for their life!
When you invest in disciples who make disciples you are leaving a legacy that will bear fruit long after you're buried and gone.

Most PASTORS want to GROW a BIGGER LAKE of addition instead of SEND their people out as a RIVER of multiplication! It's why our mission here is Reach, Teach, Mend, Send!
Our generosity of sending out groups of people to plant new churches is why our church is famous around the nation…Thousands of pastors have now read our book RIVER CHURCH.
Just last week I had four different pastors say we read your book "River Church" and now we want to be a River Church too. LL you are having nationwide impact through a legacy of Multiplication.

5. Does my living and giving match the devotion I profess?

A question of Hypocrisy vs. Integrity

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****.*
David says, it's not about HOW much I give, but about WHY I gave it.
God knows my HEART, my motive. He knows whether my heart and my actions MATCH.

*My country church pastor growing up in Kansas used to always say, "There's an unbreakable string that connects your heart and your wallet. If God's really got your heart, then he will have your wallet."

If we profess our devotion to Jesus, and to his Mission…we need to look at our lives and our finances and see if our practice matches our profession.
We are good at lying to ourselves, making excuses for ourselves, listening to our selves instead of the Spirit.

For the last 25 years Deb and I have practiced a double tithe, giving 20% of our income to the kingdom.
Our motive was based on four beliefs:
1) It will advance God's work and store up treasures in heaven for us.
2) It will make it hard for people to question the sincerity of our ministry.
3) It will release something spiritually in the church we lead - a spirit of generosity.
4) It will result in even greater blessing in our lives…and it has.
*16 years and now 20 years! I drive a 11 year old Honda Accord but I drive it w/ a smile!

Big Idea: Your true legacy is to live and give generously for what matters eternally.

6. What am I building that will outlive me?
This is a question of My Lifespan vs. Generational Mindset

David was giving generously to build a temple he would never worship in but that his son and his grandsons and his great grandsons would meet God in. David had a generational mindset.
True Generosity creates a generational mindset.
David understood that faithfulness isn't just about what God does in our lifetime.
It's about preparing the way for what God will do through the generations that follow.
That's the heart behind our Building for the Future vision.
We're not simply improving buildings or developing our campus.
We're preparing spaces where children will come to know Jesus, teenagers will discover their calling, families will experience restoration, people will be baptized, disciples will be made, and future pastors, missionaries, and church planters will be sent into the world.

**You are sitting on property that was purchased by the generosity of Christians 70 years ago.
You are sitting in a sanctuary that was built by the generosity of people 50 years ago. who are dead.
You are sitting in a chair that was purchased by the generosity of someone 13 years ago.
You are sitting under the leadership of someone who was discipled here 15 years ago.
You are sitting in the legacy of faithful saints who built what would outlive them.
What will your legacy be?

Invitation -
LIVE to leave a legacy of faith in the lives of those you disciple.
GIVE to leave a legacy that will bless the next generations.

What will you put in God's Hands so he can keep building his church?