

Thanks and Giving-2
“Thankful Hearts & Generous Hands”
1 Chronicles 29:10-20 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those watching online!

We're in week two of our series “Thanks and Giving” and even though Thanksgiving Day is this Thursday...

And even though we're going to put on our stretchy pants...eat a massive amount of carbs...fall asleep watching football...only to wake up and have dessert...

We're learning that for the Christian...that's not what Thanksgiving is all about. For believers Thanksgiving is everyday (Minus all the food)

Last week we learned that Thanksgiving means that we take time to thank God for all that He has done in our life...

And as we cultivate this attitude of gratitude it will overflow into a lifestyle worship...In other words...

When you have a heart that is overflowing with thanksgiving and gratitude...It's going to show in how you live your life...It's going to show in how you use your time, your talents and your treasure...

We're going to see this same theme in our text today...Last week we were in the N.T...and we saw how the man with leprosy was so thankful that it overflowed into worship...

Today we're going to flip back to the O.T. to the time of King David...Let me give you the context...

King David is nearing the end of his life...and he's setting up his son Solomon to be the next King...

David wanted to build a temple for God, but God said no David...you've got too much blood on your hands...your son will build it...

So David made preparations for the construction of the Temple...and he calls all the people together and he's like...

Look guys, I want you to know that I'm personally invested in building the Kingdom...I've given out of my own pocket to the work of the Lord and If you're willing, I would like you to do the same...

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. -1 Ch 29:6–9 (NIV)

David is so moved by the generosity of God's people that he begins to praise the Lord, and pray...and that's our text for today...

-1 Ch 29:10–20 (NIV)

Pray

As we're learning to cultivate this attitude of gratitude...this lifestyle of worship that just overflows, we have to remember that

Everything **BELONGS** to God

"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.-1 Ch 29:10–12 (NIV)

Everything belongs to God! He owns it all! This is so important for us to remember and acknowledge...God is large and in charge...He is Sovereign...

11 The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it. -Ps 89:11 (NIV)

14 To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.-Dt 10:14 (NIV)

David is the King...but he's acknowledging that everything he has actually belongs to God...

This is a great place for us to start...Because we have a lot of stuff don't we?

In fact when you think about it, we are stuffed with stuff...we've got so much stuff that we actually stack it up in our home...

Some people have a whole room dedicated to stuff...What kinds of stuff? All kinds of stuff...Some stuff you haven't even seen in 20 years...it's in a box that says...stuff

We've got clothes that we haven't worn in years...but we keep telling ourselves we're going to squeeze into that stuff again some day...

We've got boxes full of broken stuff...toys with missing parts...

You don't realize how much stuff you have until you actually move...PC and I have moved 7 times since 2009...and each time we just move our stuff from one place to the next...

When we finally do get rid of some stuff...you know what we do? We buy more stuff! Old stuff, new stuff, it doesn't matter...

People accumulate so much stuff that they actually have to go and rent an extra space for all of their stuff...

See, we think that all of the stuff we have is ours, but according to the Bible, all of the stuff we have is God's...He owns it all! Everything on earth is His!

This means that you and I are not owners of our stuff...we're managers of God's stuff!

8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty.-Hag 2:8 (NIV)

Now here's where people start to feel some kind of way...because they start thinking...I worked hard for this...I went to school...I invested...

Yes but it was God who gave you the ability to do those things...It's God who is blessing you!

18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, -Dt 8:18 (NIV)

David is praising God and acknowledging that wealth and honor comes from God! It's a gift from God...

If we're going to cultivate this attitude of gratitude, we've got to acknowledge that everything we have...every blessing...every good gift...is from God and belongs to God!

We give because God gave **FIRST**

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.

-1 Ch 29:13–16 (NIV)

David is pretty overwhelmed by God's generosity...Our God is a giver...and we're able to give because He first gives to us!

So when we "give to God" we're actually returning to Him what already belongs to Him!

Now some of you are struggling with this because you're thinking...I really wish I had enough to give back to God...I just don't have enough...

I like what Pastor and author Craig Groeschel says about people who struggle to give...

“Many of us don't have a money problem as much as we have a mindset problem.” -Craig Groeschel

Craig goes on to talk about two mindsets when it comes to giving...

The BAG mindset

People with this mindset generally want to give but they feel like they just don't have enough to give...They can relate to the words in Haggai

6...You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”-Hag 1:6 (NKJV)

Maybe that's how you feel...No matter what comes in it's like your bag's got a hole in it, and at the end of the month there's nothing left in the bag...

The BARN mindset

The bag mindset basically says I don't have enough...but the barn mindset says that I have more than enough...

You see, when we start to see that God owns everything...when we start to realize that He blesses us with so many things...We begin to trust Him and obey Him then God's Word promises...

8 The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to...-Dt 28:8 (NIV)

The people were able to give so generously for the work of building the temple because they had a barn mindset and not a bag mindset!

So many people don't have a money problem...in other words, they make money...they just have a bag mindset...

And they get stuck in this cycle...

So God gives because He's a giver...He's Jehovah Jireh...He supplies...You get paid...

What do you do? You spend it...You consume it...on things you need...on things you don't really need...Ohhh Black Friday...Cyber Monday...add to the cart...Uber eats...yummy!

And because we consumed too much...we're lacking in an area...we spent too much...and now we start to fear...Oh no! I can't afford to give...what if I run out of money? And we get stuck in this cycle...it's the bagmindset

The barn mindset is different though...Instead of consuming first, you Give first! Why do you give first?

Because God is a giver and He's given you everything you have...Every blessing you have

So you're going to return it back to Him - Out of love, out of obedience, out of a heart full of gratitude...as an act of worship!

The barn mindset is rooted in Scripture...

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.-Pr 3:9-10 (NIV)

We honor God with our wealth when we give to Him first...We call this concept tithing...the word tithe means a tenth...

Tithing is returning back to God the first 10% of what He has given to us...Why? Because the Bible says ***30 “ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.-Le 27:30 (NIV)***

Our tithe belongs to the Lord...

We don't spend first we give first...

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 throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.-Mal 3:10 (NIV)***

A barn mindset says I'm going to worship God with my firstfruits...I'm going to bring God my first and my best...and then I'm going to trust Him with the rest!

Now you may be thinking...10%? You're crazy! I don't have that left over now...If I were to give 10% back to God...well that would mean I would have to center my whole life around God!

Yes that's right! A barn mindset puts God first in everything...Not just with your money...

But with your time...with your gifts and abilities...It's loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind strength and wallet!

Now in the natural, this doesn't make sense...but God actually tells us to test Him in this area...(It's the only place in Scripture) And God's math is different from our math...

I'm telling you that God blesses that 90% in such a way where it goes further...instead of having less...You actually have more...You can't outgive God...

And if you trust Him, and put Him first...He can do more with your 90% then you can do with 100% of it! If you're here today and you have a bag mindset it's time to put God to the test...It's time to trust Him...start tithing!

Now here's the thing...

The people of Israel already knew and understood this concept...These guys were already tithing...Because the tithe belongs to God...

So when King David asks the people to give for the construction of the Temple...They're giving willingly...they didn't have to give it...but they wanted to give it! Because generosity flows from a grateful heart!

They willingly gave it out of the 90% that they had left over...In other words...They had enough...because God had blessed them...Why? Because God is a giver...

We're learning that everything belongs to God...We're learning that we're able to give because He gives to us first...

God loves a **WILLING** and **JOYFUL** heart

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.-1 Ch 29:17–20 (NIV)

David is acknowledging that God knows our hearts...He knows the motive behind everything we do...

And God is so pleased when we willingly give...

The people had a “we get too give” attitude...

They didn’t do it reluctantly...

They didn’t do it with an attitude...

They didn’t feel forced into it...

They gave willingly...

They gave joyfully...

They trusted God...

What was the result?

Worship...

Celebration...

Unity...

They got to be part of building God’s Kingdom!

The Apostle Paul calls this cheerful giving in **2 Corinthians 9:7**...He says “God loves a cheerful giver”

The Greek word for cheerful is ***hilaros***. *It's* where we get the English word hilarious...God wants us to give joyfully because that's how God gives to us!

Here's the thing about generosity...It doesn't just flow from a thankful, joyful heart...it also fills our hearts with more joy!

Maybe this is one of the reasons that Jesus said “It's better to give than to receive” it's good for our hearts!

You see, God doesn't really need your time, money or talents...He wants your heart!

And so many people trust their money and possessions more than they trust their God!

Their heart was in the right place because they had built their life with God at the center of everything!

And when your heart is in the right place...
Generosity becomes a joy...

Giving becomes worship...
Generosity becomes celebration...
Our faith becomes visible...

The impossible becomes possible; they had more than enough to build the Temple...

What could a church our size begin to do for the Kingdom if everybody trusted God like this?

As we close today...I want to let you know that we've got some big things we want to see God do and I want us to be a church that recognizes everything belongs to God...and that He allows us to manage what we have...

I want us to be a church who has a barn mindset...who puts Him first in all things...

I want us to be a church full of the joy of the Lord...that has a “we get too” attitude...I get to give...I get to serve...I get to be part of building His Kingdom...I get to be part of something that will make a difference in eternity!

That we would be a church that is so thankful to God that generosity just overflows!

As we close today, I want to invite you to do what David and the people did: examine their hearts...

Ask the Holy Spirit...

Do I struggle with a bag mindset or am I cultivating a barn mindset?

Ask yourself is there an area where I'm not putting God first?

Can you trust God to begin tithing? If you're tithing...maybe it's time to start moving into generosity...

Maybe you're giving but not serving...You're not giving God your time or your talents...

Holy Spirit, do I have the right motive behind what I'm doing? Do I have joy? Help me to love God with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love and serve others!

Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart as we worship...not just with our song...but with our surrender!

Altar Time

Prayer