

March 29, 2009

Sermon Title: A Study in Sacrifice

Sermon Series: Building a Blessing

Sermon Text: 1 Chronicles 29:1-19

Pastor Steven Chin

INTRODUCTION

As our church is in the midst of a capital stewardship campaign to raise money for church expansion in Chinatown, it is helpful to look at the account of Israel's fundraising to build the Temple. The Temple was the place of worship in the Old Testament where sacrifices and offerings were made. Sacrificial giving sounds painful. But is that God's intent to make giving painful?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-19.

1. King David was getting old. He could have built monuments to his memory like the Pharaohs of Egypt. What was David's vision for preparing to build the temple?
2. David was a wealthy man. But even the amount he gave (vs. 3,4) from his personal wealth is staggering. Some commentators estimate the gold to be worth \$82 million and the silver to be worth \$12 million. What was his motivation in giving?
3. David could have taxed the people to raise the money to build the Temple. Assuming the same amount of money could be raised, what would have been the difference in requiring people to give and in asking the people to give freely?
4. What principles of stewardship are found in David's prayer (vs.10-19)

GOING DEEPER

God desires that sacrificial giving not be a one time event but a lifestyle (vs 17, 18). How does recognizing yourself as a steward of God's resources change your daily decisions spending, savings, investing, giving?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

As many of you completed your tax forms recently, analyze your income, your savings, your expenses – necessary and discretionary, and your giving for this past year. Do you need to make changes starting now to reflect being a steward of God's resources?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

(NIV)

1 Chronicles 29:1-20 (New International Version)

Gifts for Building the Temple

¹ Then King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. ² With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. ³ Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴ three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵ for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?"

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 Any 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.

David's Prayer

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,
"Praise be to you, O LORD,
God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

¹¹ Yours, O 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, O 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 aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶ O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you

a temple for your Holy Name, it 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 have I 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 O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire 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, requirements 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 low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king.