

Praying Like David

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Rejoicing in generous people

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1

The task of building the temple is great, says David, because it is more than a building project. Solomon is building something "for the LORD " (v1). He's calling for the people to get behind the project (see 28:20-21). And that backing begins with their wallets.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:2-8

Funding for the temple comes from three sources: official funds (v2); a personal gift from David (v3-5); and gifts from the leaders (v 6-8).

Read 1 Chronicles 29:9

The key thing is not simply the gift, but the giving. The people and the king rejoice to see the wholehearted devotion of their leaders.

APPLY

We miss the point if we see this as a model for funding building projects. The temple was fulfilled in Jesus (John 2:18-22) and His people (Ephesians 2:19-22). The model for us is to give ourselves freely and wholeheartedly in the service of Christ and His people.

- How are you giving yourself freely and wholeheartedly in the service of Christ and His people?
- What opportunities would you like to take?

Rejoicing in a generous God

Read 1 Chronicles 29 v 10-20

- What's the theme of David's song (v10-13)?

David's song is prompted by the generous offering of the people. (Verse 14 is still heard in many churches today when the offering is taken.) But the people are only giving back to God what God has given to them. God is the source of "wealth and honour" (v 12).

All the greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendour of David's reign, in fact, belong to God (v11). King David, the man who is highly exalted (14:2) exalts God over all (v 11).

He deflects the praise to the Lord. The key phrase is: "Yours, LORD , is the kingdom" (v11).

- What is the greatness, power, glory, majesty and splendour God has bestowed on you?
- How are you able to deflect praise to the Lord?

"But who am I?" asks David in verse 14. As David exalts God he also humbles himself before God.

- How can you remain humble before God?

In his prayer, King David firstly, exalts the Lord, secondly, expresses humility before the Lord, and finally, verse 17 expresses the importance of integrity before the Lord.

- Read verse 17-19, what will it look like for God's people to live with integrity before the Lord?
- What will integrity before the Lord look like in our lives today? Consider David's final recorded words in verse 20.

PRAY

Spend time in prayer, exalting God, praising him for his goodness to us, and also humbling yourselves before Him.