**Honoring God by our Stewardship**

***I Chronicles 29:1-19***

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Introduction: This morning we saw that the presentation of our tithes & offerings is an element of worship (see again Psalm 96:7-9). Let’s follow that message by considering how God is honored by our stewardship. We read in I Chronicles 29 of David’s challenge to the people of Israel & of his prayer for Israel & his son Solomon in the matters of giving & worship. King David first leads by example (:1-4) & then he offers this exhortation, *“And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?”* (:5). We find in this chapter the charge to stewardship, the cause of stewardship, & the consequence from stewardship. We also see the people involved in stewardship because of a purposed heart, a “perfect” heart, & a pleased heart.

Consider with me tonight how we can honor God by our stewardship.

 I. The chargeto stewardship because of a **purposed** heart (:5).

 A. Who? The consecrated ones

 1. Compare with David in 29:2, *“Now I have prepared with all my might…”*

 2. Consider the charge to *“consecrate”* (:5), that is, to give willingly.

 B. What? The serving ones

 1. This *“service”* is literally “to fill one’s hands.

 2. This is the charge to give liberally.

 C. When? The eager ones

 1. *“This day”* means now, not tomorrow, not later.

 2. This implies that we should start giving to the Lord now, early in one’s life (child?).

 This is the charge to give speedily.

 Summary: “We must each of us, in our several places, serve the Lord, & consecrate our

 service to Him, separate it from other things that are foreign & interfere with it, & direct &

 design it for the honor & glory of God” (Henry).

 II. The cause of stewardship because of a ***“perfect”*** heart (:9).

 [This does not mean a “sinlessly perfect” heart, but: (1) the idea of completeness;

 (2) of God, absolute perfection as an attribute of God alone; & (3) of man, “complete

 conformity to those requirements as to character & conduct which God has appointed”

 (Unger); & see I Kings 8:61.]

 A. This speaks of a ***generous*** heart (:9).

 1. Two times the phrase *“offered willingly”*is used in this verse.

 2. The N.T. parallel is II Cor. 9:7, *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,*

 *so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*

 Application: Some may refuse to give their tithes & offerings because to give on their

 part would be to give grudgingly or out of necessity. But that indicates they do not have

 a *“perfect”* heart.

 B. This speaks of a ***grateful*** heart (:9, *“…to the LORD…”*).

 1. The direction of their giving > to the Lord & His work.

 a. See verse 14 & note: “This is the basis of stewardship: that everything we have &

 are is from God, being simply held in trust by us, & that it should therefore be

 used for Him (Luke 17:10)” (Wycliffe).

 b. Do we really believe the Doxology when we sing, “Praise God from Whom **all**

 blessings flow…”? If so, we will be grateful, indicating a perfect heart.

 2. The delight in their giving > they *“rejoiced.”*

 a. In verse 13 David “acknowledges with thankfulness the grace of God enabling

 them to contribute so cheerfully towards the building of the temple… Note, the

 more we do for God the more we are indebted to Him for the honor of being employed in His service, & for grace enabling us, in any measure, to serve Him”

 (Henry).

 b. Do you demonstrate your gratefulness whenever the offering plate is passed?

 C. This speaks of a ***governed*** heart (:17-18).

 1. A heart desirous to keep God’s word & to do God’s will.

 2. A heart under control, obedient, conformed to the requirements of God (see again

 I Kings 8:61).

 Summary: Compare Jehoshaphat’s charge to the judges of his day, *“And he charged them*

 *saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, & with a perfect heart”*

(II Chron. 19:9).

III. The consequence from stewardship because of a **pleased** heart (:9 & 17)

 A. The people rejoiced (:9 & 17).

 1. There was obvious joy in the hearts of the people in their ability & opportunity to

 give.

 2. Do you rejoice in your ability & opportunity to give? (See II Cor. 8:1-5).

 B. The king rejoiced (:9, *“David the king also rejoiced with great joy”*).

 1. He rejoices in the generosity of the people (:14).

 2. He rejoices in the greatness of the Lord (:10-17).

 C. The Lord rejoiced (:17, *“Thou triest the heart, & hast pleasure in unprightness”*).

 1. Does God depend upon our giving? No! > Psalm 50:10-12.

 2. Does God deserve our giving? Yes! > I Chron. 29:14, 17).

 3. Does God delight in our giving? Yes! > (I Chron. 29:17 & see Ps. 37:23 &

 II Cor. 9:7).

Conclusion: Is God honored by your stewardship? He has entrusted you with His work, His worship, His welfare (name & reputation), & His wealth. Will you accept the charge to steward-ship with a **purposed** heart: to give willingly, liberally, & speedily? Will you acknowledge the cause of stewardship with a **“perfect”** heart: to give with a generous, grateful, & governed heart?

And will you achieve the consequence from stewardship of a **pleased** heart: giving to the Lord because He deserves & delights in our giving. Remember Solomon’s exhortation in Proverbs 3:9-10, *“Honor the LORD with thy substance, & with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, & thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”* How about you here tonight? Are you honoring God by your stewardship?