

A Daring Gift of Love

A lesson from King David about giving gifts for building God's house on earth: 1 Chronicles 29

Then King David turned to the entire assembly and said, "My son Solomon, whom God has clearly chosen as the next king of Israel, is still young and inexperienced. The work ahead of him is enormous, for the Temple he will build is not for mere mortals—it is for the Lord God himself! Using every resource at my command, I have gathered as much as I could for building the Temple of my God. Now there is enough gold, silver, bronze, iron, and wood, as well as great quantities of onyx, other precious stones, costly jewels, and all kinds of fine stone and marble. And now, because of my devotion to the **Temple of my** God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver to be used for overlaying the walls of the buildings and for the other gold and silver work to be done by the craftsmen. Now then, who will follow my example and give offerings to the Lord today?" Then the family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the generals and captains of the army, and the king's administrative officers all gave willingly. For the construction of the Temple of God, ... The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy...

Then David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly: "O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever! Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom.

We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength. O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.

"O Lord our God, even this material we have gathered to build a Temple to honor **YOUR HOLY NAME** comes from you! It all belongs to you! I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously..." Then David said to the whole assembly, "Give praise to the Lord your God!" And the entire assembly praised the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and they bowed low and knelt before the Lord and the king.

WHY SHOULD I GIVE A DARING GIFT?

- 1. To bring **HONOR** to the one, and only, true **GOD**.
- 2. To **FULFILL** God's **PURPOSE** and **PLANS** on earth.
- 3. To show my **LOVE** to God for all He has blessed me with.

HOW DO WE GIVE? WITH A HEART OF **GRATITUDE**.

Remember this--a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Cor. 9:6-7 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own. Read the following passages: Exodus 25:5-36:7, 1 Chronicles 29:1-20, Acts 2:42-47, and Haggai 1:1-2:9 and answer the following questions: What does a church facility represent to God, to the world, to His people? Why does God want them built? How important is it to Him? How important is it to you? Have you ever thought that building a church facility is actually part of our investment in His eternal plans? If you have never considered investing in expanding God's work in this way, pray about it and consider what God may ask you to do. Then, choose to get in motion with God and help advance His agenda by building His church.