

Sermon Notes

Whose name's on the title deeds?

The Bible Reading

1 Chronicles 29:10-20.

¹⁰ David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "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 splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

¹² Wealth and honour 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 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. 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. (NIV)

A prayer

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me about you from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Bible Study

Questions:

1. Why do people sometimes feel uncomfortable when we talk about money in church? Why is it good to talk about money in church?

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

2. Although David would not build the temple, his son Solomon would. But David provides many of the resources needed for the project. What strikes you about David's example, the response of the leaders and the response of ordinary people? Could you describe your giving as generous and joyful?

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-20

3. What does David's prayer say about God? How might reflecting on God's attributes and actions have an impact on how you view your income and possessions?
4. What does David's prayer say about people (even powerful people like King David)? What is the difference between David's humility and gloomy self-loathing? How does a joyful and positive outlook sit with David's view of people?
5. What are the implications for us if we take seriously what David says about everything belonging to God (verses 14 and 16)?
6. What does David consider even more important than the gifts of the people?
7. Reflect on what David prays for at the conclusion of his prayer.