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Giving

1 Chronicles 29:1-20

Mark recounts an incident in which a crowd of affluent people are putting large amounts of money into the temple treasury. In stark contrast to such giving, a poverty-stricken widow comes forward and gives "all she had to live on." Jesus, watching the scene, strongly commends the widow for surpassing all the others in her giving (Mark 12:41-44). If Jesus were watching you put money into the "temple treasury," what would he say? 1 Chron. 29:1-20 challenges us to consider our habits and our motives in giving.

1. What gives you the most satisfaction when you give money?

2. Read 1 Chron. 29:1-20. How does David demonstrate his devotion to the Lord God in the building of the temple (1 Chron. 29:1-5)?

3. How does David's example affect the rest of the leadership of Israel (1 Chron. 29:6-9)?

4. How do your attitudes toward giving compare with those of Israel?

5. What do you think it means to give "freely and wholeheartedly" (1 Chron. 29:9)?

6. For which of God's characteristics does David give him praise in 1 Chron. 29:10-19?

How does God's character motivate him to give?

7. If we have difficulty giving "freely and wholeheartedly," what might this suggest about our understanding of God's character?

8. Contrast David's estimate of himself and his people with his description of God (1 Chron. 29:14-20).

9. What does David realize about possessions?

How is this demonstrated?

10. Which possessions do you have trouble viewing as belonging to God?

In what ways do you cling to them?

11. Describe the relationship between worship and giving in this passage.

How are they related in your life?

12. In 1 Chron. 29:2 David writes, "With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God." Considering the different types of resources God has entrusted to you (time, energy, money, car, house or apartment, books, records and so on), what would it mean for you to follow David's example?