

5. The leaders and the people gave willingly and experienced great joy (1 Chronicles 29:6-9). How do you keep a balance between giving willingly from the heart and giving as a discipline, with a sense of obligation?

6. Read 1 Chronicles 29:9-13. Now reread the John Piper quote from the outline. What did God reveal about himself in prompting the people to give?

7. What does it mean to you to give in response to God's grace?

8. Looking back over this week's sermon, reading and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: The David Story: Finding Strength in God (2 Samuel)

SERMON 8: "Access"

TEXT: 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Chronicles 29:1-19

DATE: August 22/23, 2015

Two Axioms & One Problem

- God's access to our hearts takes familiar pathways. One of those pathways is our _____. (Matthew 6:21)
- The road to happiness is clearly marked but seldom traveled. And that road is called _____. (Acts 20:35)
- Some of you are giving, but you're not experiencing God or his joy deeply.

Giving by Design

Giving in a way that gives God deeper access to our hearts and greater joy in our hearts.

1. It _____ you something because giving that costs you nothing isn't giving.
2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Chronicles 29:1-5a

Does my giving cost me something?

2. It is an act of _____ surrender.
1 Chronicles 29:5b

Is there an "if" in my giving?

3. It is given _____ from the heart.

1 Chronicles 29:6-9

Do I give out of obligation?

Your heart will be most engaged in your giving when you are most engaged in that to which you give.

4. It is given to God as an act of _____.

1 Chronicles 29:9-13

“What really happened was that God revealed himself. The giving of money for the house of God was the work of God to reveal God so that we would stand in awe of God.” (John Piper)

Am I giving as an act of worship?

5. It is given in response to God's _____.

1 Chronicles 29:9-14-19

2 Corinthians 8: ⁵ “[The Macedonian churches] gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ...⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.”

Am I giving in response to God's grace?

SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION GUIDE

2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Chronicles 29:1-19

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. David declares that he will not sacrifice animals that cost him nothing in 2 Samuel 24:24. Then, after buying the field that later becomes the land for the temple, he makes a sacrificial gift for building the temple (1 Chronicles 29:1-5). How would you describe the kind of giving that costs you something?

3. Reflect on a time when you gave sacrificially. If you feel comfortable, share its impact on your life with the group.

4. Reflect on Tim Kellers comment that if you say to God or think in your heart, 'Lord, I'll serve you or give to you if you...,' whatever is on the other side of the "if" is your real god.