

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Stewardship Sunday

These questions are for the **November 15, 2015** sermon, "Free Your Future." Please read the sermon passage (1 Chronicles 29:6-20) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

1. **Free your future by recognizing the greatness and beauty of God** (10-13)
 - A. Our motivation to give begins with the greatness, power and grace of God.
 - B. Every dollar you have belongs to God and should be used in his service (be grateful!).
 - C. REMINDER: David loved God and obeyed him. His whole heart belonged to God.
2. **Free your future by humbling yourself before the grace of God** (14-15)
 - A. Who are you (who are we??) that God would allow you to give to him so generously and freely?
 - B. Consider God's general financial principles that will help you position yourself for generosity:
 - i. It all belongs to the Lord (what you give and what you keep), and it is all from the Lord.
 - ii. The tithe is the starting point--even before the law (Gen 14, Leviticus 27:30-33; Mal 3)
 1. Jesus approved the tithe (Matthew 23:23) and Paul taught proportionate giving (1 Corinthians 16:2) and generous giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-9).
 2. Tithe means "one-tenth"
 - iii. Debt may be used temporarily, but we should have a plan to get out and stay out of debt as we manage the Lord's resources (Prov 22:7).
 - C. Keep in mind that David obeyed God in giving the tithe, and then saved a boat-load of money by not living in debt. He had saved billions of dollars throughout his life and he had no debt. When the time came to give a substantial gift to build God's temple, he led the way in generosity.
3. **Free your future by gladly giving generous free-will gifts to the Lord** (6-9, 16-20)
 - A. David's gift was generous, and inspired the people around him to be generous.
 - B. We learn tons of non-financial lessons when we obey the Lord and have his heart.
 - C. Live in such a way that you are ready when once-in-a-lifetime giving opportunities arise.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How does starting with God himself--seeing him, loving him and happily obeying him-- motivate your desire to give? Consider the "mighty acts" he has done for us. Talk about how you are learning gratitude to God for all he provides.
2. Based on #1, above: David managed all of his money as if it truly belonged to the Lord. He still had houses (1 Chron 15:1) and personal wealth; God provides income to take care of the needs of your family (Matthew 6:33). How do you possess your money, so that your money does not possess you?
3. Based on #2, above: Talk about your journey toward obeying God in tithing and giving.
4. Based on #2, above: Is the general direction of your life one that views debt like the Bible teaches? Are you working toward retiring all of your debts? Do you view debt as "slavery"? (Proverbs 22:7)
5. Are you living on a written, monthly spending plan? Do you have a budget? How can we help? Are you interested in attending the church-sponsored January-February personal finance class?