

Encounter – Stewardship

Review

- The first three ways we encounter God work together: Prayer (the Lord's prayer), Worship, and the Word.
- The bottom line is **abiding in Christ**, or remaining close to God.
- **Acknowledge** God and who He is.
- **Surrender** to His Lordship; obedience.
- **Trust**, which leads to confidence, assurance, and hope.

This week: STEWARDSHIP

- Definition: management versus ownership
- *The position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.* (www.dictionary.com/brows/stewardship?s=t)

The Story

- Saul is King. He becomes wicked.
- God chooses David from the sheep pen to be the shepherd of Israel.
- Saul seeks to kill David for 15 years.
- David becomes King, takes over Jerusalem, and defeats the enemies of Israel.
- David wants to build a temple for the Lord (God's tabernacle was a tent).
- David asks the Lord to let him build a temple—God says no, you are a man of blood. Your son will do it.
- David's response: **1 Chronicles 29**

1 Chronicles 29:1–3 (NIV) ¹Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. ²With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. ³Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple:

1 Chronicles 29:6–7 (NIV) ⁶Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. ⁷They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron.

1 Chronicles 29:10–20 (NIV) ¹⁰David 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. ¹¹Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, 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. ¹⁵We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶LORD 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. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸LORD, 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. ¹⁹And 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.” ²⁰Then 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.

Looking back at the review: Worship/abiding is...

1. David **acknowledged** God, who owned everything, and who had created everything.
2. He **surrendered** to the Lord's plan and took responsibility for the task.
 - He obeyed God, though the Lord had disagreed with his own plan.
 - He gave what the Lord had commanded—10% and much more.
 - He led Israel to do the same. He challenged others to surrender.
3. He **trusted the Lord**. He had joy, assurance, and confidence as he gave.
 - Some think what the Lord has given is all He will ever give—"scarcity mentality."
 - What was David going to live on if he gave all he had?
 - How would the Kingdom function with no assets?
 - He knew God would continue to supply.

Question: What would the Lord had done if David had taken credit rather than acknowledge God, surrender, and trust?

Matthew 25:14–28 (NIV) ¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ... ²⁶His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.’”

Luke 16:10–12 (NIV) ¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?”

Conclusion:

- We are stewards given so much.
- What we do with it reveals our heart towards God, how we see Him, and how we see ourselves.
- The world will seek to distract us and to make us proud.
- Live simply—the big rocks go in first, and our careful service to the Lord is rewarded.
- Time, money, and our relationships reveal which are the big rocks in our lives.

Questions to meditate on and discuss:

1. What do you think it means that God owns everything and we're to be His stewards?
2. What challenges you to flee contentment?
3. In what ways is God talking to you about growing in your generosity?
 - a. What steps are you going to take to do that? Share how you are doing with someone else throughout the week.
4. How is God encouraging you to embrace simplicity based on Proverbs 15:16-17; 17:1; 30:7-9?
 - b. What steps can you take to embrace simplicity? Share how you are doing with this, also!