

Life Application Notes: A Prosperous People – 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

John Groves – 17th March 2019

Introduction

John opened on Sunday by diving straight into 1 Chronicles 29 which is a wonderful account of King David leading God's people in giving towards the building of the temple. This is a high point for the people of God as they give willingly and generously into a building project that's solely for bringing glory to God!

To kick off, imagine you have just discovered that **each** of you have been anonymously given £1,000,000...!
Go around the group and discuss - **What would you do with the money and why? What is your initial reaction?**

Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 together - What is the most surprising thing from these verses?

Go around the group and have people guess how much the materials listed in v4 that David gave towards the temple were worth!

In rough estimates David gave about 100 metric tons of gold and 235 metric tons of silver towards the building of the temple. Today that volume of gold would be worth approximately £3,146,823,000 and the silver approximately £88,926,350. *Isn't that fantastic?*

David and many of the people giving towards the temple won't have lived to see the final result of this huge building project and yet they gave generously and willingly.

Digging In

Read together 1 Chronicles 29:10-20.

In these verses David thanks God for blessings given to the Israelites and dedicates it back to God – acknowledging that it is all God's and all for his glory.

John spoke about five different areas in which we can show the world around us a better way of living. One that is God focusses rather than materially focussed. *(Work through each of these points, discussing briefly on each one – feel free to spend different amounts of time on each one but try to get a bit of discussion on each one! If you like you can split into smaller groups/pairs and discuss one of the points before gathering back together to feedback what you have discovered.)*

- Owning
 - God is not against us having things! **Looking at v12, what can we learn from David on our attitude to our money and possessions?**
 - In the end everything belongs to God and we are entrusted with it. **How can having a warped view of ownership hinder us in our faith? (1 Timothy 6:17-19 – what is our hope in?)**
- Stewarding
 - God gives us the ability to earn and produce wealth and it is up to us to diligently steward it well. **In what ways can we practically be better stewards of what God has given us? (If you want to you can read through the parable in Luke 19:11-23)**
- Giving
 - Grace "God's riches at Christ's expense" – Jesus's sacrifice is the ultimate example of giving generously and willingly. God is a generous God! The gospel fits everywhere – even with giving. **How can our view of the gospel motivate our giving?**
- Receiving
 - We can sometimes be very British in our response to receiving gifts! Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. We should be open to God providing in strange ways. **Share if you have any experiences of God's provision (both in practical and miraculous ways!)**
- Worshipping
 - **Re-read verses 10-13. How should our giving and worship interact?** Our giving should be motivated by our worship. In the end God sees our heart.

Rounding Off

Each of you consider for yourselves (you can keep this between you and God) – **What would God have you give?**
Remember that it isn't a competition. It doesn't matter if you have little or much – **giving faithfully is an adventure! Dive into it!**
As we keep in our minds our vision for the year focussing on the "God of Rescue" – **In what ways can we use what God has given us to bless the people in our local community? What can you do with the time and resources you have?**

Pray together for generous and willing hearts as we look to our second Gift day this Sunday, and pray into our vision for blessing our city this year!