

Sermon Summary | Sunday 27th September 2026 | 1 Chronicles 29.1-18

What do we really own? We naturally speak about *my* money, *my* house, *my* time, *my* abilities, *my* plans. And of course there is a real sense in which those things are ours. We work, earn, save, plan, and take responsibility.

But 1 Chronicles 29 invites us to look deeper.

David is near the end of his life. He has spent years preparing for a temple he will never build. Solomon will build it. David will not see the finished building or stand at its opening ceremony. Yet he gives himself wholeheartedly to preparing for the future: gathering materials, organising people, making plans, and putting his own wealth into the work.

Then he asks the people, “Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the LORD?” And they respond with remarkable generosity. They give gold, silver, bronze, iron, precious stones. And, strikingly, “the people rejoiced because they had given willingly.”

This is not generosity forced out of reluctant people. Grace has opened their hands.

That speaks directly into stewardship. God gives us time, abilities, money, opportunities, experience, relationships, homes, and resources. The question is not simply, “How much should I give?” It is wider: *What has God put into my hands that could become a blessing to someone else?*

But the real turning point comes when David prays. Looking at the enormous amount that has been given, he does not congratulate himself or the people. He looks beyond the gifts to the Giver: “All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”

The gold was God’s already. So was the silver. The kingdom was God’s. David’s strength, opportunities, wealth, and even his willingness to give were gifts of grace.

And this had been the story of David’s whole life. God had chosen him, protected him, given him the throne, the kingdom, victory, Jerusalem, wealth, a son, and a promise for the future. Before David was ever a giver, he was a receiver.

The same is true of us. Harvest helps us remember that underneath all our work is gift. We work and earn. Farmers sow and harvest. We plan, shop, cook, save. Human effort is real. But we do not make the sun shine, the rain fall, the soil produce, or life continue. We do not give ourselves tomorrow morning. “All things come from you.”

And the story goes further still. God had promised David a greater Son and a kingdom that would endure. Centuries later, Jesus came. And there we see how far God’s generosity goes. God does not merely give us things. God gives himself. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

Christianity does not begin with, “What are you going to give God?” It begins with, “Look what God has given you.” Jesus gave himself on the cross for sinners, for people who had failed God and lived as though his gifts belonged to us alone. He died so that we could be forgiven, brought back to God, and given life, grace, hope, and a future.

Before we are givers, we are receivers. That leads to three simple responses.

Receive it as God’s gift. Look at what is in your hands and ask, not merely “What is mine?” but “What has God entrusted to me?”

Release it with gladness. Christian generosity is not extracted by guilt. The gospel is not an invoice. We do not give so that God will love us. We give because, in Christ, he already has. Grace loosens our grip.

Remember where it came from. That protects us from pride, because even our generosity is something for which we thank God. And it protects us from fear, because our deepest security does not lie in how tightly we can hold on. It lies in the God who gives.

Everything is gift. Everything is grace. Everything in our hands first came from God. So receive it with gratitude. Release it with gladness. Remember where it came from.

And because God has been so extraordinarily generous to us, we are free to live with open hands — for his glory and for the good of others.

Questions for personal reflection

1. What has God put into my hands that I tend to think of simply as “mine”?
2. Where might gratitude for God’s generosity free me to live more open-handedly?