

Tending My Treasure

This passage concludes the "Dirt Farming" series by focusing on *tending my treasure*. This aspect of our stewardship to God includes our finances, but the kind of radical generosity God calls us to is about joyfully giving to God in *all* areas of life. Note the emphasis in this week's passage on God's ownership of all things and the joy of giving.

The context for this passage is David's preparations for building the Jerusalem

KNOW

temple. After praying a prayer that "blessed the Lord" (29:10-19), David turned his attention to leading the people blessing God in response (29:20-22a). What do we learn in 29:10-13 about God's character and purposes? Verses 14-17 revolve around the giving of a "freewill offering" for the temple. What does David's prayer teach us about God and giving to him?
David prays for the people and the king (29:18-19) and then invites the people to respond to God's presence, goodness, and faithfulness (29:20-22a). What kind of response did the people have to David's command to "bless the Lord?" Describe the nature of their worship and giving to God. What can we learn about worshipping and serving God from their response?

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Stewardship of God's good gifts is based on acknowledging his ownership of all things. As God's people, we can only be good stewards if we use our treasure for God's glory and others' good. In what ways do you need to reevaluate how you see your treasures? How might your treasures have a hold on you? How can you hold more loosely onto what God has given you?
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Consider the treasures God has given you. Take stock of the various ways God has blessed you. Write down these blessings and share the list with someone you trust. What abundance can you draw from to give to others? What blessings do you have to pass on to those in need around you?

"Bless the Lord"

The verb "bless" (in Hebrew, *barak*) is a key word in this week's passage (see 29:10, 20). The idea that we can "bless the Lord" may seem strange in our thinking. How can we do that? Based on its use elsewhere in the Psalms, the phrase seems to mean something like "praise or give thanks to the Lord." As God's people, we are called to bless God *in response to* and *in honor of* God's provision of blessing.