

BIBLE STUDY - CONTINUED

This idea of everything belonging to God is used in the opening prayer. It is part of David's prayer at the dedication of the temple.

Read 1 Chronicles 29: 10 – 17

- ❖ How does King David view these donations?
- ❖ Do you find it easy or difficult to think of your resources in this way?
- ❖ What difference might it make if you did?
- ❖ In what ways do you feel challenged or encouraged by these passages?

If I think things are mine, I might hold on to them. If things are lent to me, I don't hesitate to return them. How might my approach to giving change if I see things the way King David does?

A song we often sing contrasts the value of what we have to the wonder of knowing Jesus:

**All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.
*Your majesty, I can but bow.
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your majesty.***

Read Mark 13: 20

Do you love the Lord your God as you should, or are there things that get in the way? What would it mean for you to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul?

Time to think and pray things over:

What are the ways in which you have been blessed by God? Take some time to thank him for the many good things he has given to you. Pray that He will give you the right perspective on how you use the many good things he has given you.

Resourcing God's Mission

Week 2



**Our vision is to be an inviting community,
welcoming people to know Jesus Christ,
equipping them to live and serve, and sending
them to proclaim His love.**

Verse for the Week:

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

An Opening Prayer:

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

When we bring our offerings (or alms), one of the prayers we use is taken from the Bible passage we are going to be looking at. As you begin, use it as a prayer:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.
Amen.**

Time to think things over:

If your house was on fire and you had time to rescue one thing – your most reassured possession (assume all people and animals are safely out) what would it be? Looking back over time how has this changed? Have your priorities changed over time?

We're going to be thinking a little about the idea of gleaning. Did you see the videos on Sunday? You can see them here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kogho_ktsn8 or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1Jn2xUezDY>

BIBLE STUDY - READ THROUGH LEVITICUS 23

This may seem like an unusual passage to read as it gives a list of the many different festivals that God's people had to observe over the year.

- ❖ Why do you think there were so many festivals to observe?
- ❖ In what ways do you think the festivals would have been costly for the families to keep?
- ❖ In our busy world today why is it easy to lose sight of the things that God gives us?
- ❖ For God's people their year was structured around these festivals. How could we learn from them in the structuring of our lives?
- ❖ What else might we learn from this chapter?

Leviticus 23 is a helpful reminder for God's people that we need to be constantly thanking him for all the he gives us. However, it is important to take this idea a little further.

Read: Leviticus 19: 9 & 10

In these view verses we read about the practice of gleaning. This of course features prominently in the story of Ruth and Boaz, where we see it acted out. Whilst we know this story well, it is worth thinking about the attitudes that lies behind the importance of gleaning.

- ❖ Why was gleaning an important principle? Wouldn't it just be called inefficiency today?
- ❖ Do you think the owners of the land were keen to do this? Why/why not?
- ❖ The poor people benefit from this practice. How do the owners benefit?
- ❖ "The Land is the Lord's" was a well known saying in the promised land. Would we feel the same today about the things we have worked hard to earn?

How does this passage help us to think about not holding on to things we have and earn too tightly?