

appnotes

DAY 1 READ 1 CHRONICLES 29:10-20

1

When we work for someone else, at the end of every week or every other week, we expect to be paid. These are the wages we've earned. When someone sees our need and offers us a gift, we accept it gratefully, knowing we did nothing to earn it. In this passage, David recognizes that the wealth he has fits into neither of these categories. In vs. 15, he calls the Israelites sojourners and tenants: a tenant will one day return the property to its owner. Everything we have is from God. God has given us a free gift: salvation, which we can never repay. But the resources He has given us – whether a lot or a little – are rightfully His; He expects us to use these resources wisely. David collected offerings from the people to build God's house. What can you do to help build up God's kingdom in Northeast PA?

DAY 2 READ NEHEMIAH 10:31-39

2

When I was a teenager, my youth group experienced a spiritual revival. In a sudden turn of events, this group of apathetic, self-centered teens came up with ways to help the needy and elderly in the community. We had energy and we wanted to do something. Perhaps you have a similar desire to make a difference. In the book of Nehemiah, Israel experienced a similar revival. After years of captivity, they returned to Israel to rebuild. After the wall and temple had been finished, the people brought their offerings to sacrifice to God. They recommitted themselves to following God's law, even in the realm of finances. In a country of farmers and shepherds, bringing the firstborn was no small thing! They trusted God with their finances, and so can we.

DAY 3 READ MATTHEW 6:19-24

3

Have you ever bought something only to have it break right after the warranty ran out? How frustrating! But that's life here on earth, right? Not so in heaven! The stuff we spend money on doesn't last here on earth. But eternal investments pay off forever. In this passage, Jesus tells His listeners to store up treasures in heaven. How do we do that? Like God does. God values people more than anything – didn't He give the gift of His Son to save us? So if we invest our resources in helping others find the way back to God, the treasure in heaven we will see will be other believers who heard God's Word because we gave. Those smiling faces will be worth way more than a broken gadget!

DAY READ 1 KINGS 17:8-16

4

What's the first thing to go when money gets tight? Do you stop eating out? Do you steer clear of coffee shops? If things get desperate, maybe you even cut the cable! When the money runs out, there are just some things we would like to do that we don't do. The widow in today's reading had just scraped the bottom of the barrel, and all she had was enough for a final meal with her son. But God asked her to give it away instead. She trusted God enough to give her final meal to a fellow servant of God. And God took care of her. Maybe you've always wanted to be generous, but you don't feel like you have enough as it is—so giving is not an option! Will you trust Him enough to give first and let Him take care of you?

DAY READ MALACHI 1:6-9

5

Do you spend your paycheck like I sometimes do? You pull out the essentials first: housing, car insurance, gas, food, and the bills for the week. What do you do with what's left? Do you think about eating out, buying yourself a little something, or feeding your habit? Do you consider being generous? If we are not intentional, God becomes the last thing we think about... and by that time, there is nothing left! God doesn't want the leftovers. When we give Him less than the very best, we are not honoring God as He deserves. Whoops! What if we acted in faith with our finances? When we choose to give first and live off the rest, we are telling God that He is the most important thing in our lives. And you know what? He's worthy of first place in our finances.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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