

Giving Series, pt.2, 2.8.09

A Willing Heart

Intro

1. Kurt Warner, the two-time NFL MVP quarterback of the Arizona Cardinals, started a family tradition he calls The Restaurant Game. The night before he heads out for a road game, Kurt and his wife take their seven children out to eat a family dinner. Once the Warner family is seated, one of the children will scan the dining area like a quarterback looking for potential receivers. When the Warner child picks a table, Kurt asks the waiter to add that table's dinner tab to his own—all anonymously. At a steakhouse before a September game against the New York Jets, a family of four received a free meal without knowing it came from an NFL star.

The idea for The Restaurant Game came to Warner and his wife after Warner led the St. Louis Rams to a Super Bowl victory in 2000. It's a natural fit for them. They remember the days before Warner's NFL career—when Kurt was working a night shift at a grocery store, and they only had food stamps to feed their family. With that in mind, giving is a joyful family tradition for the Warners.

Warner's motto for life and ministry is "Faith and Family First." The Restaurant Game is one way he's passing that motto on to his children.

Karen Crouse, "Warner Sets Example for His Family and the Cardinals,"
www.nytimes.com

2. Review last week's message on Firstfruits
3. 1 Chron.29.10-18

The Perspectives Needed to Have a Willing Heart.

1. Intro - Exposition of A Willing Heart (29.3-6, 9, 17-19)
 - a. David willingly gave from his own wealth (29.3-5).
 - b. The Leaders willingly gave to the construction of the temple (29.6-9).
 - c. The word "willing" means voluntarily & fully; there's no reservations or strings attached.
 - d. The Story of George & Norine Lunsford - the willingly gave. Time, spiritual gifts & money. They served as teachers, directors, Gideons, deacon, Children's ministry, Meals on Wheels, committees, etc. They actively shared their faith

through testimony & lifestyle. They didn't have a minimalist attitude - I'll give enough so I won't feel guilty. Their attitude was Jesus is the most important person in the world with the world's most important message; we must give ourselves fully to the establishment of His Kingdom in our age.

- e. Transition - There are two perspectives needed for a willing heart. They are the doctrinal & personal perspectives. If you only have the doctrinal, giving becomes cold routine; if you have personal only, giving becomes temperamental.

II. The Doctrinal Perspective (Biblical Foundation)

a. God is the source of everything (29.12)

- i. Script - John 1.3 - 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. Acts 17.24 - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. Rev.4.11 - 11"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.". Ps.100.3 - 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his ; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.;
- ii. Article - Children Are Born Believers in God.
- iii. Illust - In A Short History of Nearly Everything, Bill Bryson marvels at what makes up human life:

No one really knows, but there may be as many as a million types of protein in the human body, and each one is a little miracle. By all the laws of probability proteins shouldn't exist. To make a protein you need to assemble amino acids...in a particular order, in much the same way that you assemble letters in a particular order to spell a word. [For example, to make collagen,] you need to arrange 1,055 amino acids in precisely the right sequence....

The chances of a 1,055-sequence molecule like collagen spontaneously self-assembling are, frankly, nil. It just isn't going to happen. To grasp what a long shot its existence is, visualize a standard Las Vegas slot machine but broadened greatly—to about ninety feet, to be precise—to accommodate 1,055 spinning wheels instead of the usual three or four, and with twenty symbols on each

wheel (one for each common amino acid). How long would you have to pull the handle before all 1,055 symbols came up in the right order? Effectively forever. Even if you reduced the number of spinning wheels to two hundred, which is actually a more typical number of amino acids for a protein, the odds against all two hundred coming up in a prescribed sequence are 1 in 10 to 260 power (that is 1 followed by 260 zeros). That in itself is a larger number than all the atoms in the universe....

Yet we are talking about several hundred thousand types of protein, perhaps a million, each unique and each, as far as we know, vital to the maintenance of a sound and happy you.

Bill Bryson, "The Rise of Life", A Short History of Nearly Everything, pp. 288-289

- iv. According to British scientists, the "fly is the most talented aerodynamicist on the planet— superior to any bird, bat, or bee. A housefly can make six turns a second, hover, fly straight up, fly straight down, fly backwards, do somersaults, land on the ceiling, and perform various other show-off maneuvers. And it has a brain smaller than a sesame seed."

The scientists also note that "flies are loaded with sensors. In addition to their compound eyes, which permit panoramic imagery and are excellent at detecting motion, they have wind-sensitive hairs and antennae.

They also have three light sensors, called *ocelli*, on the tops of their heads, which tell them which way is up. Roughly two-thirds of a fly's entire nervous system is devoted to processing visual images."

If God put so much wisdom into ordinary houseflies, imagine what it means to know that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Joel Achenbach, "Fly Like a Fly," National Geographic (June 2006)

- v. TS - God didn't just create everything and then move away. Everything still belongs to Him.
- b. Everything still belongs to Him (29.10f)
 - i. Ps.24.1 - the earth is the Lord's and everything in it; the world and all its people belong to him.
 - ii. God own us twice over...by creation (Rom 14.8 - If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.) & re-

creation (1 Cor.6 – Don't you realize your body is the temple of the HS, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must hone God with your body).

iii. Jack Taylor's comments on God's ownership – God doesn't put a no trespassing sign on the mountains; or a fence around every meadow ; or collect a toll every time the space station circles the globe; he doesn't gather royalties on the songs of birds; or make us pay when flowers sprout around our house. And he doesn't send a notice to us saying, "Rent due" but we're camping on his property; breathing his air and spending his time.

c. We are managers of His stuff (29.13f, 16)

i. We give Him what He has given us

ii. David says, "I gave an offering from the money you gave me." Like my mother giving me a quarter as a child to put in the offering plate. I thought it was mine, eventhough I took it straight from her purse. All we do is manage. The tithe is the Lord...we don't give the tithe (iow, the attitude, "it's my money"); you return it...it's not an option...it's not yours to keep.

iii. Adam & Eve were the world's first managers. We come from a long line of managers.

iv. To the teenagers: Consumerism is directly related to materialism: consumerism encourages suburban teenagers to derive identity from what they can consume while materialism emphasizes this oppression by convincing them that their value is equal to the value of their possessions.

For example, in 2003, teenagers in the United States spent \$112.5 billion. There were roughly 20.5 million teenagers in the U.S. in 2003; therefore, on average, teens were spending more than \$100 per week, primarily on clothes.

J. R. Rozko, in "The Other Side of 'At-Risk': Freeing Youth from Suburban Oppression," *Theology News and Notes* (Fall, 2007)

1. Appl. – Challenge teenagers to give to God first & foremost.

III. The Personal Perspective (Subjective Experience) – (29.26–30)

a. Diff betw doctrinal & personal

- i. Doctrinal – He will take care of you; Personal – He has taken care of me.
- ii. Doctrinal is Word based; Personal is Witness based;
- iii. Doctrinal is from the Testaments; Personal is from our Testimony.
- iv. Doctrinal is our Foundation; Personal is our Declaration.
- v. Doctrinal is where you begin/start; Personal is where you move/stay.
- vi. Doctrinal is the footing; Personal is the edifice

b. David & other could look back on what God had done – 29.26–30.

- i. Summary of David’s life & see how God used this overlooked shepherd boy to become the greatest King of Israel.
- ii. All David ever wanted to do was worship the Lord & build a place where he & others could worship God. David could look over his life and see God’s protective and guiding hand.
- iii. He gave willingly b/c he experienced the goodness of God even during challenging times.

c. My personal perspective on giving is heavily influenced by my history with God.

IV. Conclusion

- a. Giving with a willing heart is first cultivated when you know in your heart & mind that God is the source of everything, everything still belongs to Him and you only manage his stuff. It is cultivated second when you know through experience that He will supply all your need through His riches in Christ Jesus.

b. Do you have a willing heart? Are there perspectives and attitudes that need to change?