

Devotion 21
Today

Saturday, Week 3

(King David is speaking) *With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God. . . . Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord? . . . O Lord, our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. . . . I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.* (1 Chronicles 29:2a, 5b, 16, 17)

“Today”—it is a rather powerful word in the Bible. “*Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts*” (Heb.3:7-8a) . . . Believe! “*Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today.*” (Heb.3:13a). “*This is the day the LORD has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!*” (Psalm 118:24). In each instance, it is a blessing to be part of that “today.”

In our text, David is recognizing a very important “today.” He is rejoicing that, on this day, he and all the people of Israel are being given the opportunity to bring offerings to the Lord for the building of the temple. No one—not one—of God’s people is being left out here. After stepping forward with his own generous offering, he cries out, “*who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord* (and, in joyful response to God’s abundant love and blessing, willingly bring a gift)?” He was celebrating that he and his people could willingly, joyfully, proportionately and sacrificially give to the Lord to whom all things belonged and from whom they had received all things. What a joy it was to be a part of that wonderful day! It was a day of worship! It was a day of rejoicing and of celebration! It was a great day!

Our upcoming Congregational Commitment Event is a special day in our lives together in Christ. It is a special “today” of which we are privileged to be a part. We will come together at the Commitment Event to make our pledges (to be given over 3 years) in our ministry expansion stewardship campaign. Just as King David and all the people came together to willingly and joyfully give to the Lord—and then give God the glory—so too may we respond, in David’s words, “willingly,” and with “integrity” and “honest intent”—and then give God the glory. Then this “today” will be *our* day of rejoicing, celebration, and commitment to the God who gives us every blessing in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You that I am able to be a part of this wondrous “today” that You have given to us here at church. Give me integrity and a joyful heart. Lead me to give willingly, with honest intent, and always mindful of all that you have done for me in Christ Jesus, in whose most wonderful Name I pray. Amen!