

1  **"Whose Fries Are These"?****1 Chronicles 29:10-16**2 3  **I'd like to share a story told by Leonard Sweet - author, teacher, and pastor.**4  **One day James wanted to do something special with his five year old son Jimmy.**

- He asked "son, is there anything you'd like to do right now?"
- Jimmy said, "I want some McDonald French Fries."
- His father said, "if that's what my boy wants, then that's what my boy gets."
- They got into the blue and white chevy truck and headed toward McDonald's.
- Jimmy's lips and tongue were silently moving as he could taste the fries before they even reached the store.
- His Dad made the order, and Jimmy's heart pounded when his Dad said "make it a super size".
- James took the money out of his wallet to pay for the fries and a drink.
- Jimmy's little teeth were ready to sink into those hot golden fries before they made it to the table.

5  **When they sat down, grace consisted of "God bless this food amen", but it seemed like way too many words to Jimmy who was eager to delight himself with this huge blessing of French fries.**

- James was happy to see his little boy so happy over something so simple. He decided to join in the fun.
- He reached over to get a couple of Jimmy's fries for himself.
- To his surprise, his son quickly put his arms around his fries as though building a fort and pulled them toward himself and said, "No, these are mine."
- His dad was in a state of shock for a moment.
- He could not believe what had happened.

6  **James pulled back his hand and began to reflect about his son's attitude toward the fries.**

- Let's walk together through the things that went through his mind.
- He was thinking, my son failed to realize that I am the source of those French fries.
- At the counter, I was the one who gave the cashier the money from my wallet.
- I did not give him the size fry he was expecting, but something twice as big.
- Yet here he is talking about his French fries.

7  **Not only was I the source of the French fries, he has forgotten that I at 6ft 1 and 195 lbs, have the power to take all the fries despite his little arms surrounding them as a fort.**

- Or that if I wanted to, I could go back to the counter and bring him so many fries that he could never eat them all.
- He also does not understand, "that I don't need his French fries. I could go back to the counter and get as many fries as I wanted."

8  **As the Dad thought about it, one or two fries really would not have made much of a difference for him that day.**

- What he wanted was for his son Jimmy, to invite him into the wonderful little world he had made possible for his son.
- He wanted his son to be willing to share the very blessing that he had provided.

9  **Now let's think about this little story: God takes us to McDonald's on a regular basis in our lives, doesn't he?**

- God blesses us. He blesses you and God blesses me.
- He's given us all some French fries.
  - Some have small bags, others medium, others large and some super size.
  - But God has given us all some fries.

- 10  **Like that Dad, James, God desires to sit down at the table with us for some fellowship.**
- When God reaches over to use some of the blessings he has given to us, far too often we say "No God, these are mine.
  - No, No, No. Go and get your own."
  - We try building our own little forts around our blessings.
- 11  **Is there anybody here this morning that understands that God is the source of all that we receive?**
- Sure, we may have earned the money.
  - But we also know you've got to have something within you that you didn't put in you to have the ability to make a living.
  - King David understood this.
- 12  **10 Then David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly: "O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever!**
- 13  **11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.**
- 14  **12 Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength.**
- 15  **13 "O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! 14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!**
- 16  **15 We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace.**
- 17  **16 "O LORD our God, even this material we have gathered to build a Temple to honor your holy name comes from you! It all belongs to you!**
- 18  **I hope everyone here today understands, God has the ability to take away everything we think is ours ...**
- and God has the ability to bless us with even more than we have.
  - None of us know how many times God has spared and protected us, even spared our lives.
  - God has cared for us and protected us in ways we don't even realize.
  - So back to the French fries ...
- 19  **Is there anybody here that recognizes God does not need our French fries?**
- Is there anybody here that realizes what an honor and a privilege to be able to share our fries with God?
  - God does not ask us to give because God is hurting and in desperate need.
- 20  **God asks us to give because God wants us to be like Him.**
- You see - God has a giving attitude and he wants that giving attitude modeled in his children.
  - The first verse many people learn is John 3:16, "for God so loved the world that he

what...He gave His only Son.”

- Throughout the Bible, you find that God is always giving.
- Many of you have experienced God’s blessings in ways that you had not thought possible!

21  **In the first nine verses of the chapter, the Israelites had just taken up an incredible size offering for a new building project.**

- They were going to build the first temple for God.
- They were celebrating because the leaders were pledging their gold, their silver, their jewelry and everything else they had of value.

22  **Did you notice the word “everything” in verse 11 and the words “everything comes from you” in verse 14.**

- Look at the last six words in verse 16, “all of it belongs to you.”
- David, the writer, understood that everything comes from God. Everything!
- In verse 12, the last part of the verse says , “In Your hands are the strength and power to exalt and to give strength to all.”
- David understood that God was in control and could give us French fries or take them away from us.

23  **In verse 14 it says, “everything comes from you, and we have only what comes from your hand.”**

- That’s interesting. It’s saying, “God, you gave us everything we have, and we’re just turning around and giving some back to you.”
- David is saying, “God you are the total source of all that we have.
- All this wealth we have given for the building of the temple, You have put it in our hands, and then we took it out of our hands, and put it back in your hands.
- It’s a circle of giving.

24  **Now, am I saying that God is the source of everything. Yes.**

- Whether we worked for it, won it, found it, or received it as a gift. God is still the ultimate source.
- The Bible tells us,

25  **The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. Psalm 24:1 NLT**

26  **Everything we think we own, belongs to God.**

- Wait a minute, are you saying my car, my house, my PS4, my clothes, my jewelry and my food belongs to God?
- You may think you earned it, you worked for it, you traded for it.
- But you could not have done those things without the strength God provides.
- Your health and the ability to get anything is a gift from God.
- Your family, you, spouse, your loved ones are all gifts from God.

27  **There is nothing we have that God ultimately has not provided.**

- Doesn’t it amaze you that we would act like Jimmy with the French fries with God.
- God gives us all these French fries and we’re sitting around saying, “oh no, no, no these are mine.”
- God as a parent is hurt because we have such a limited understanding that everything we have was God’s and still is God’s.
- If you really think something belongs to you, die and try to keep somebody else from taking it.

28  **And God loves us so much, that He has not even given up on us yet even though we make it plain, I’m not letting you have my fries.**

- Do you know what gratitude is?

- Gratitude is having an understanding and appreciation of the blessings that we have in life.
- Now some of you here would like to show God your gratitude, but like Jimmy, you're not sure you will have enough fries to meet all your needs.

29  **There are three things that help us overcome this fear.**

30  **1. God has the ability to provide.**

31  **Does God have the ability to give us what we need, if we give to the work of God in this life?**

- This is going to boil down to whether or not we can believe Jesus.
- We trust Jesus with our eternal salvation which is by far the greatest thing we have at stake.
- Jesus taught us to pray, "give us this day our daily bread".
- We can trust Jesus to provide for what we need each day.

32  **2. God has the willingness to provide.**

33  **God is willing to give you today what you need.**

- God is so willing to give, that the Bible tells us He causes his blessings to flow on those who don't serve him as well as on those who do.
- "He causes the sun to shine on the just and the unjust."

34  **Anything that God asks of you today, God has made it possible for you to do it.**

- Is there anyone here who would ask their child to go to the store and purchase some milk, knowing that the milk would cost \$3.99 but you only gave them .50 to purchase it?
- No if you expected them to bring home milk, you'd give them enough money to do it.

35  **3. God desires partners in his work.**

36  **God could have sent an angel to preach the gospel on 1901 29<sup>th</sup> Street, but God didn't do that.**

- He established First Baptist Church.
- God has you and me here today with an opportunity to make our life count for God.

37  **This church can bring new life to the lives of many people as we lift up Jesus Christ.**

- God needs people who are willing to reach out and touch others.
- He wants you to make a difference.
- What role is God calling you to so that you can be a channel of love to others?

38  **Here's the bottom line: We serve a giving God. The more we serve Him, the more giving we should become.**

- Will you break down the wall around your fries and say to God, Your plan and your purposes for my life is far greater than what I could do with these fries.
- You take them and do as you please.
- God is challenging us to allow Him to set us free from our fries so that we might enter into a deeper relationship with Him.

39  **I want to challenge you today to give God some of your fries.**

- If you've never pledged to give to God now is the time to start.
  - You can start small.
  - Decide in your heart what God wants you to give back to him.
  - It may be just 1% of your income – maybe just a few dollars – that's a start.
- If you are already a giver, I challenge you to increase the amount of your giving.
  - Can you increase it 1% or 3% or 5%?
  - We need to grow in giving – how is God calling you to grow?

40  **We're never too young or too old to begin giving.**

- If a kid has a dollar, he can give a dime.
- It's an expression of trust in God.
  - It's allowing him to take some of the fries he's given you and put them to use for his kingdom.

41  **Take a pledge card on the way out.**

- If you need to revise your pledge you can do that.
- If you need to start giving do that.
- You'll grow in your love of God as you give – I promise it.
- Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."