

UNDERSTANDING JESUS' PERSPECTIVE ON GIVING

Mark 12:41 - 44



Treasury:

- A. Located in “Court of Women”
- B. 13 “trumpet” shaped vessels, each for a specific type of offering; one for “general fund”

Mark 11:15f

1. OUR GIVING MATTERS TO GOD. HE IS AWARE OF EVERY PENNY WE GIVE.

A. Jesus seizes his last public moment to teach about giving.

- Mark 12:41 “And he sat opposite the treasury and watched the people...”
- Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

2. DO WE RATIONALIZE AWAY OUR NEED TO GIVE?.

Mark 12:43, He called his disciples and said to them ...

- Our rationalization might go this way:

A. I can't afford to tithe (or, to give anything):

- Applied to a church – we can't afford that; we have to balance the budget, first, then we can do new things.

B. The church just wants my money.

- Why didn't Jesus tell the woman that? Mark 11:15 abuse.
- Why didn't God tell the people that in Malachi 3?

C. We are under grace. The law (tithing) no longer applies.

3. GIVING MATTERS: MONEY IS OFTEN USED BY JESUS TO TEACH SPIRITUAL LESSONS

1. The tithe is the Lord's.

- Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. Matt 22:21.
- Lev 27:30 "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.

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2. The danger of “laying up” money for yourself in lieu of using it to help others or to grow the kingdom of Christ.
- Luke 12:15, And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. ...²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." Luke 10:29-37

3. GIVING MATTERS: MONEY IS OFTEN USED BY JESUS TO TEACH SPIRITUAL LESSONS

- Matt. 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (ESV)

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3. Money is a stewardship. How I use it determines whether the greater spiritual gifts will be given.
- Lk. 16:11-12, If then you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's [God's], who will give you that which is your own?

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4. Giving to God allows God to reveal himself by giving back.

- Mal. 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.
- Lk. 6:38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

“PREACHING TODAY” STATISTIC
HOWARD L. DAYTON, JR, LEADERSHIP VOL 2, NO 2.

- “Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions.”
- But why does money matter so much?
 - Act of surrender to the refuge of God over self.

WHAT IS A TITHE?

- Lev. 27:30, 32 "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD....³² And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the LORD. (ESV) Deut. 14:28

WHAT IS A TITHE AND HOW AM I TO GIVE IT?

- A. “What” of a “tithe” = 10% of my increase from all sources - belongs to the Lord.
- Lev 27:30-32, Deu 14:22; Mal 3:10-11
- B. “How?” of the tithe:
- First, not last. Pro 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.
 - Given with a plan not as an afterthought. 1 Cor 16:2.

ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE TITHE?

A. Strengthen the priests, spiritually.

- Numbers 18:20 And the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.

B. Deepen the faith of the giver – through the blessings of God to the people who obeyed!

- Mal. 3:7-8 "... Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?' 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.

3. GIVING IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SURRENDER TO THE REFUGE OF GOD OVER SELF.

- The woman:

- A. Poor

- B. Widow

- C. Alone.

She gave it all away. Why? Because had discovered that God was all she needed.

NEXT STEPS

1. Confess to God where you are with your giving. Make a spiritual decision to return to Him by deciding, today, to change how you give.
2. If you are not giving regularly, decide, today, to start:
 1. How much will stretch your faith?
 2. Give that amount, weekly or monthly based on when you get paid.

NEXT STEPS

3. If you are not giving 10%, make a decision to start moving in that direction:
 1. Pray about it.
 2. Do a budget. Ask God to reveal what you can do without.
 3. Give the tithe based on when you get paid.
4. Put God to the test. Observe what happens in your life after you decide to obey Him.