

The Widow's Offering

FOUR things the Bible tells us about money

1. **EVERYTHING** belongs to **GOD**
Exodus 19:5, Psalm 24:1, 1 Corinthians 10:26
2. Money is an **INSTRUMENT** of **WORSHIP**
Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:11-12
3. Giving is **WORSHIP** and **OBEDIENCE**
2 Samuel 24:24, Romans 12
4. Money is our **PRIMARY VALUE INDICATOR**
Luke 12:34

SIX wrong attitudes regarding giving

1. Giving is **TRANSACTIONAL**
2. Giving is **MEMBER** dues
3. Giving is for the **CHURCH**
4. Giving as a right to **INFLUENCE**
5. Giving as a **STRATEGY** to feel better about **WEALTH GUILT**
6. Giving as **PACIFICATION**

FIVE questions we tend to ask about generosity

1. What should **I** do with **MY** stuff?
2. What should **I** do with **GOD'S** stuff?
3. What does **GOD** want **ME** to do with my stuff?
4. What does **GOD** want **ME** to give from what He has **GIVEN** me?
5. What would **GOD** have me **KEEP** from what He's **BLESSED** me with and **ENTRUSTED** me to steward?

Giving is not what God wants **FROM** you, it's what He wants **FOR** you.

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Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 20, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. We've all received gifts over the years. We may have known some were coming, while others were a total surprise. Can you remember a gift that was a complete surprise and you greatly appreciated? If so, explain.

2. Talking about money can quickly become uncomfortable especially in a public setting. What do you think was the first thought most people had when Christopher introduced the topic? How about your first thoughts?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Understanding what it means to give joyfully, generously and sacrificially is no small challenge. What do we learn from Paul's words about the Macedonian church's approach to giving? How were they able to put all three of these character qualities into action? As you read about the Macedonian church in 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 use the following prompts:

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in

speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

How would you summarize Paul’s perspective on giving in this passage?

What do you think it looks like to excel in the grace of giving?

What in this passage are you most challenged by or encouraged to put into action?

2. One of the keys to building generosity into our lives is learning to be content with what we have. As most of us know, this kind of contentment can be a challenge. What insight and hope does Paul give us in moving toward this kind of contentment?

Philippians 4:10-13 New International Version (NIV)

Thanks for Their Gifts

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

How can the principles in Matthew 6:25-27, 33-34 help us grow in our ability to be content with either much or little?

Matthew 6:25-27 New International Version (NIV)

Do Not Worry

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Matthew 6:33-34 New International Version (NIV)

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

When do you find yourself being challenged to find contentment with what you have?

- Comparing yourself to others
- Thinking you should work harder
- Thinking you deserve more
- Not appreciating what you have
- Other

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week’s message and study, what’s most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

This weekend we heard it's not about what God wants FROM us, but rather what He wants FOR us. So where do you start? Proverbs 3:9-10 explains "giving off the top" which is both an act of thanking God for his current provision AND a way of trusting Him for future provision. When it comes to giving, we're all at different places. Here are some steps to help you start and continue to move forward:

Go from nothing to something,
... from something to systematic,
... from systematic to tithing,
... from tithing to sacrifice.

- **GIVING OFF THE TOP - Ways to Give at North Coast Church**

- ✓ **Mobile App**

- Download the North Coast Church App - [iphone](#) / [Android](#)

- ✓ **Online & Automatic Withdrawal**

- Go to northcoastchurch.com/give. No registration or account needed.

- One-time or repeat giving.

- **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

- Need resources to better manage your money? Watch for classes coming this Winter and Spring. This 9-week DVD-series will be facilitated by financial coaches as you learn techniques for squashing debt and living within your budget.

- **OTHER ONLINE FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

- Dave Ramsey – daveramsey.com/category/tools/