

D. Equal **sacrifice**, not equal gifts is the goal.

*Luke 21:1-4* <sup>1</sup>"And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. <sup>2</sup>And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; <sup>4</sup>for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

*"If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving".*

- Mother Teresa

*"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare".*

- C.S. Lewis

E. Tithing is an act of spiritual **obedience** not just an **obligation**.

*Matt. 6:33* "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

*Acts.20:35* "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

### Table Talk

1. Why is tithing so important to your spiritual life?
2. What are the consequences for those who don't tithe?
3. What are the "rewards" for those who do?
4. What is the correlation between your "heart" and money?
5. Are you willing to trust God with your money, even in these uncertain economic times? If not, why not?

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# What Would Jesus Think?

Part 4 – "Money... Where is Your Heart?"

*Matthew 6:19-21*

*January 25, 2009*

*"Oh, no! He's not going to talk about money, is he?" Why do Christians get so nervous when the pastor starts talking about money? Show me your checkbook register, and I can tell you where your priorities are! Take a look at these facts:*

- *In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, 1 out of every 6 verses deals with money.*
- *Of the 29 parables Christ told, 16 deal with a person and his money.*
- *Jesus talks more about money than heaven and hell.*

*As Augustine said, "Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness."*

## I. The Principles... God's View of Money

A. God owns **everything**. Your ability to make money comes from God.

*Ps. 24:1* "The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it."

*"When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will never lack God's supply."*

- J. Hudson Taylor

*"I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess."*

- Martin Luther

B. Our **attitude** in giving is more important than the amount.

Our giving should be characterized by...

1. **Cheerfulness** (2 Cor. 9:7)
2. **Liberality** (2 Cor. 8:2)
3. **Sacrifice** (2 Cor. 8:3)
4. **Eagerness** (2 Cor. 8:4)
5. **Willingness** (2 Cor. 8:12)
6. **Integrity** (2 Cor. 8:20-21)

C. My **heart** follows my checkbook.

*Matt. 6:19-21<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

D. Live life based on the **eternal**, not the **external**.

*Heb. 11:25-26; Matt. 25:21*

E. **Heaven**, not earth, is our home.

*Phil. 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"*

F. God prospers me not to raise my standard of **living**, but to raise my standard of **giving**.

*Malachi 3:10b "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."*

*Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure – pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."*

## II. The Plan... An Approach to Tithing

A. Giving should be... (1 Cor. 16:2)

1. **Regular** "The first day of every week..."
2. **Individual** "let each one of you..."
3. **Systematic** "put aside and save..."
4. **Proportionate** "as he may prosper."

B. If you are not giving at all, **start** somewhere.

*Prov. 3:9-10<sup>9</sup> "Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine."*

*Lev. 27:32 "For every tenth part of herd or flock, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD."*

C. A tithe is the **beginning**, not the "end" in giving.