

“Raising the Bar- Giving”

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Foundational Reality

(God really doesn't need our gifts.-Psalms 50:9-12)

Three Thoughts

Thought #1-There are two “givens” when it comes to giving

- “Given” #1-From a Biblical perspective, giving is simply _____.

(A Word of Caution-Giving is not the same as purchasing)

- “Given” #2 We are supposed to give _____.

“I'm afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” C. S. Lewis

Giving begins _____, not what we're going to have. 1st Kings 17:10-15

Thought #2-Our attitude toward giving **could** inform us about:

- The condition of our _____. (Matthew 6:21, II Corinthians 9:7-9)
- Our view of _____-Whose treasure is it?
- Our willingness or ability _____ God.
- Whether we are moving into a _____.

It is dangerously easy to view money as our savior.

It is very easy for money to cease being _____ and become a _____.

1st Timothy 6:9-10, 1st Timothy 6:17-19

If we have trouble giving, is there something we need to tend to?

Thought #3-Giving is not something we initiate

- It is a _____ to what we have received.
- None of us are _____ of what God has given.
- None of us can _____ what God has given.
- None of us can _____ what God has given.

Conclusion

Giving is a given. It is expected. God certainly wants us to be generous people. However, he wants our hearts far more than he wants our money. Christ didn't die for our money, _____.

Talk It Over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions & thoughts are designed to help you put His words into action this week. We encourage you to talk these over with other Christians that you are close to.

- What is your main “take-away” from this week? How do you plan to live that out?
- What did you think of the C.S Lewis comment the “I’m afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare”? What was his point? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- What role does trusting God play in your giving? Is it difficult to trust God with your finances? Why or why not?
- What are some of the “good things” we put in place of God in our lives? What keeps them there?
- What is the general rule you follow when it comes to giving?
- Can you give as God wants you to and feel “safe”? Are we required to give everything as the widow was?
- Is wealth a bad thing? Is it a dangerous thing? Has God used giving to “protect” you?
- What are some of the “true blessings” associated with giving?
- How is your heart connected to your giving?
- Read over the various scriptures presented in this week’s sermon and think about what God might be teaching you. (Note: these might be different than what was presented in the sermon.)

