

LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES - What you Give you Get - October 20 - Pastor Peter

Luke 6:37-38 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

1. Who's the Source

Giving starts with God. He's the source. So, what does God give?

Natural Life

Acts 17:28 "For in Him we live and move and have our being." Our life is in Him, our existence is in Him, our identity is in Him. It's God who gives us life. Every breath we breathe is from God.

Spiritual Life

And what God needed to give to offer us spiritual life elevates His level of generosity to unbelievable heights.

John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." Through Jesus, God generously offers the gift of salvation, the gift of spiritual life. You can have spiritual life lived in relationship with the God who created you.

Supernatural Life

Jesus gives supernatural life.

John 10:10 "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." And Jesus says He came to give us a rich, satisfying, full, amazing, positive life, not just when we get to heaven, but right now.

2. God and Money

Almost all of us think about money almost every day.

QUESTIONS:

1. How is God the source of our giving?

2. What does he give?

3. How is he the example of giving for us?



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In the church context, money is actually talked about way less than just about anybody thinks about it or talks about it.

And when the church talks about money, there are two really good reasons.

The first reason, is because God talks about money. 11 out of 38 of Jesus' parables mention money and possessions.

In the Bible, there are more than 2,000 verses on tithing, money and possessions which is twice as many as verses on faith and prayer combined.

The second reason, and the reason there are so many verses in the Bible about money, is that there's a direct correlation between the way we handle our money and our faith.

Matt. 6:21 "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Jesus knows that where we put our treasure, our money, our hearts follow.

God Owns Everything

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him."

Money is About Discipleship

Matt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Money is a tool that God uses to help us live and love like Jesus.

Fight for Contentment

And the Bible teaches us that our attitude toward money gives us the opportunity to fight for contentment.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do we think of money constantly?

2. How has money and church interacted in our current society? What is your perception?

3. What does the bible say about what our approach to money should be?



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Here's something the Apostle Paul says.

Phil. 4:11,12 "Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little."

Contentment is more than just being happy with who we are and what we have - contentment is rooted in God's love for us.

Trust in God

And the Bible teaches us that money helps us take the temperature of our trust in God.

1 Tim. 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."

Heb. 13:5 "Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'"

If I love money, it's an indication of the level of my trust in God.

3. Pay it Forward

And we pay it forward.

Mal. 3:10 "'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My temple. If you do,' says the Lord of heaven's armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!'"

A tithe means ten percent. Tithing puts God first in the area of my finances by giving Him the first 10%.

Entitled or Entrusted

Are we entitled or entrusted?

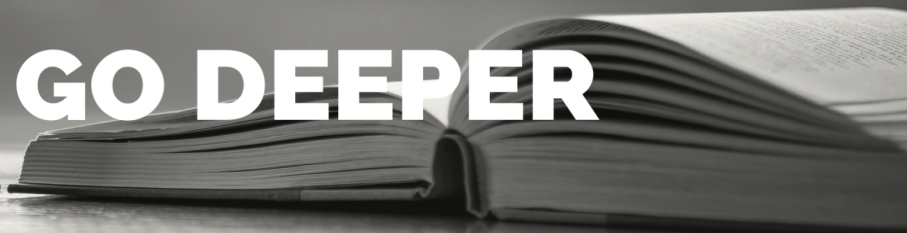
Tithing trains my heart to remember that what I have is entrusted to me and I'm not entitled to anything.

Optional or Obedience

4. How does our point of view of money and possessions impact our relationship with God?

5. Why do you think God challenges us to test him when it comes to giving out tithes?

6. Should we tithe when we feel we don't have enough to do so?



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We don't need to pray about tithing because He's already told us that we should.

The truth is, we handle adversity better than we handle prosperity.

Maintain or Multiply

There's only one miracle of Jesus that's recorded in all 4 gospels and that miracle is the feeding of the 5000. He can take what we give and supernaturally multiply it. And it doesn't mean there's nothing left for us. The disciples pick up basketfuls of leftovers that add up to way more than the original five buns and two fish and they keep it. It's for them. God will multiply in every area of your life.

Putting it all together (Application)

1. Everything is his. He is the source of all. Including what we have. Our mentality towards money and possessions changes when we understand that its not ours but God's. When we understand we are just stewards, managers, not owners. You wouldn't manage the money of someone else the same way you would manage money that you feel is yours and that you don't have to answer to no one about it.

He is the source of everything, and he is not just asking us to do give, he already gave to us. He set the example for us to follow.

2. Money is not everything. We need money to buy things and to pay for things. Sometimes we may think that money is everything. But is not. Money is just way in which we show what we have in our hearts. Money doesn't change people; it just shows what they had in their hearts all the time. If you focus yourself on money as the end purpose and not the way to be used by God, then you are missing the point because money is not everything.

3. Be faithful, show your love by following and obeying. Peter, the night Jesus was betrayed, told him that he will never abandon him. Few hours later he did not only abandon him, but he also denied knowing him. He had good intentions, but intentions are not enough when living by faith. You need to be intentional and faithful to God. As disciples of Jesus, we need to

7. How is giving a reflection of our faith

Lined writing area for reflection on question 7.

