



One Priority

MAIN THING

Generosity marks the life of the Christian

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 15:6, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:9, 1 Timothy 6:10, Luke 12:16-21, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, Daniel 3:28-32, Matthew 21:33-41, Psalm 50:9-12, Psalm 37:25

ICEBREAKER

In my opinion, people spend far too much time worrying about . . .

OPENING THOUGHT

The early church had a very strange view on money and possessions- they believed they didn't own them. They believed they were God's, and therefore they were available to everyone in the church. The Scriptures tell us that they sold property and possessions regularly to provide for others in the church. Unfortunately, Genesis 3 caused that system to break down as people began to take advantage of it, so much that a few years later Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that "if you don't work you don't eat." Obviously we are to provide for ourselves so as not to be a burden, but the point remains- they didn't see their possessions as theirs. They believed that they were managers of God's property and, like any manager, would be held responsible as to how they managed that which was entrusted to them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon identified three lies that sound like truth- 1) All the church talks about is money, 2) Money and things can satisfy me, and 3) It's my money and I can do whatever I want with it. Which do you think is the most difficult one to overcome? Why?
3. The sermon identified three truths that sound like lies- 1) God determines how much money I have, 2) God has the power to shut down my company, my business, and dry up my source of income without a moment's notice, and 3) Anyone can have financial peace. Which is the hardest to believe? Which are you actively NOT believing right now?

LIFE APPLICATION

Until we change our attitudes to that of the early church, that it's all His, we will always see giving and generosity as awkward and imposing. We will always be at war with Scripture's commands concerning money. We will always be antagonistic towards offering time in worship. We will continue to live in disobedience to Scripture. However, if we allow God to change our attitude, we will be at peace with His commands and open our lives to God's blessings. We will truly find that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We will also have the joy that comes when we regularly bless others. Honest question- does your attitude need to change?

CHALLENGE

Take control of your finances. Far too many of us lead lives that are out of control or are one bad day away from a major crisis. Many of us want to be able to give but we just don't feel like we can because of debt and obligations. Wherever you are in your financial life, take the next step. For some it's to get a job. For others it's to get out of debt. For others it's to start tithing. For others it's to increase your giving. Whatever your next step is, take it.