

Sermon Notes for Young People

Sept. 22, 2019 | Luke 21:1-4, "The Giving God Commends"

I. Introduction

A. **Why do we need reminders of the Scripture's teaching on giving, generosity, and stewardship**

B. **Why is the subject of giving and generosity vital for spiritual health and Christian living?**

II. Main Argument

A. **Jesus Watching the Moneybox:** what is the context for this discussion with His disciples?

1. Commendation

a. Whose giving does Jesus commend, and why does Jesus ignore certain people's gifts?

b. What does our giving to the Church indicate about us spiritually? (cf. Phil 4:7)

c. What does the widow's giving indicate about her faith in God's care for her?

2. Four Spiritual Principles from Luke 21:1-4

a. Who are "big givers" in God's sight?

b. **Application:** Why are you giving *what* you are giving, and what does that tell you about God's place in your life?

c. What sort of giving does God commend?

d. Does Jesus know how much you give?

B. **Five Spiritual Truths About Giving**

1. Christians are Expected and Commanded to Give

a. Is the need to give to the church diminished if the church already has "lotsa money"?

b. How does Paul command the wealthy Corinthian church to give in I Cor. 16:2?

c. What is the difference between giving to the Church versus other charities and causes?

d. **Application:** are you faithfully supporting the *Church* in your giving and generosity?

2. No Portion of Your Income is Mandated in Scripture

a. Is there an obligation to tithe under the New Covenant?

- b. What is a *tithe* or *tithing*? What is *not* a tithe or tithing, biblically and historically speaking?
- c. **Application:** are you giving a *worthy portion* of your income to the work of the Church?
- d. **Application:** How much more under the New Covenant should we be giving than the saints gave under the Old Covenant?

3. Giving is an Act of Worship

- a. Is worship merely singing? What else is part of worship?
- b. Why is it unhealthy to “pay the church”?
- c. **Application:** are you giving cheerfully and worshipfully to the Kingdom of God?

4. Christians Give Because of What Christ has Done

- a. What is the standard for Christian giving under the New Covenant (cf. II Cor 8.8-9)?
- b. How does Zacchaeus illustrate a converted person’s attitude toward giving and generosity?

- c. What does it mean to give sacrificially, and why is that important in the Christian life?
- d. **Application:** How is giving to the work of the church a good gauge of spiritual health?

5. Christian Giving is Connected to God’s Blessing

- a. Does this mean if you give, God will give you more stuff or make sure you never lack stuff?
- b. Why did Paul have to spend so much time writing about giving and generosity to the Corinthian Church?
- c. Why does the generosity of the Philippian church encourage Paul so much (cf. Phil 4:7)?
- d. What are some of the blessings of giving faithfully, generously, and sacrificially?

III. Conclusion: Questions for my parents or the pastor
