

Intro: Welcome to Basecamp!!

Today - talk about finances

I know what you're thinking...

We have preconceived ideas:

Tele-Evangelist / Legalistic churches

Ex. "Bill-Evangelist!" NO!! (Don't pass plate)

FACT: We gave away over \$250,000 last 2 years!

Why talk about Money? Jesus did!

Jesus referenced **\$\$ more** than any other subject!

"**Unity**"=25

Compare "**Grace**"=131

"**Holy Spirit**"=94

Over **600 scriptures** @ **money!**

Jesus warned us about money's place in our lives:

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:24b (NIV) "You cannot serve both God and Money."

Trans: Let's clear up the confusion ...

FOUR KEYS to Biblical giving...

PRAY

Four keys to Biblical giving...

I. UNDERSTAND WHY I SHOULD GIVE. (3 reasons)1. It is the RIGHT thing to do.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. [Q: Are you honoring God with you \$]

Ex. Widows Mite (Luke 21:4)

Malachi 3:7-8 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. "Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD Almighty. But you ask, "How are we to return?" 8 Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me." But you ask, "How do we rob you?" In tithes and offeringsÖ

9-10 You are under a curse --the whole nation of you --because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." [Only place God says "test me."] NOT "Slots in sky!"

2. It acknowledges GOD'S ownership, provision & protection.

1 Timothy 6:17, 18 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Tangible demonstration of trust (Firstfruits)
Isn't ALL His anyway!

III: - John D. Rockefeller's accountant. How much leave when died? "He leftÖ everything behind"

3. It advances the KINGDOM of God.

Luke 16:9-12 (NIV) I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

QT: Francis Bacon "Money is a great servant, but a terrible master."

II. UNDERSTAND WHERE I SHOULD GIVE. (2 ways)1. Tithes: LOCAL Church.

Numbers 18:24a (NIV) Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord."

1 Corinthians 9:11, 12a (NIV) If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? 12 If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? Ö

13 Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (Show Chart: OT-Levites; NT-Pastors)

"Necessary responsibility"-Obligatory!
Supports pastors & local church ministries

2. Offerings: EVERYWHERE else.

Deuteronomy 12:6 (NIV) there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings.

A matter of generosity & sacrifice
"Above & beyond"- Discretionary
Special needs & projects:

Ex. Missionaries, Ministries, Special needs, building, Poor, Outreach, Albums, etc.

III. UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I SHOULD GIVE.

How much is enough? How much is God worth?
Q: "Bill, why do you tithe?" (not under law?!)

1. Thank God for the TITHE! (Means 10%)

Donut Math: Tithe literally means 10%

Ex. Story: "Lord, reduce this man's salary..." ;-)

2. The tithe was confirmed BY the law.

God says a tenth belongs to Him

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV) A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

3. The tithe was affirmed by JESUS.

Only practice of Pharisees commended by Jesus

Luke 11:42 (NIV) Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

4. The tithe was affirmed by PAUL.

Paul states the plan for supporting NT leaders is same as OT support for Levites: the tithe

Numbers 18:21 (NIV) I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.

1 Corinthians 9:7-14 (NIV) In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

5. Regardless, GRACE implies/demands more

Faith, love, forgiveness increase w/grace

Romans 5:15 (NIV) How much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

Ex. Timothy & the cookie crumb! ;-)

IV. UNDERSTAND HOW I SHOULD GIVE.1. JOYFULLY (Choose your attitude)

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Ex. Nathan picture-smiling! (Put on tithe box!)

2. Conclusion: Lets HONOR God with wealth!