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The Giving Of The Leaders
Num. 7:1-17

One of the most tragic things that has happened within the church is the wrong message that has been communicated to people about their financial giving to God.

1. God at times is portrayed as financially broke and unable to continue the work, let alone finish what He began.

* But God declares that if in fact He needed something He would not ask man, for He owns the entire earth and it's fullness.

2. God is also portrayed as needing help and then a financial plea goes out in specific amounts.

* Yet the Scriptures teach us that it is to be willing not forced or coerces.

3. Then God is represented as some magical genie who motivates you by the promise that He will give you ten for every one dollar you give.

* But the motivation for our giving is to be love with a hilarious heart.

Oh what a mess we have made of our representation of God and our giving to God, as if God needed anything from us!

This morning we want to examine the giving that took place in the book of Numbers by the leaders of Israel and learn some very important lessons regarding our giving to God. 7:1-17

- I.** Their giving was in response to the goodness of God. vs. 1-3
- II.** Their giving was in response to the work of God. vs. 4-9

III. Their giving was in response to their dedication to God. vs. 10-17

I. Their giving was in response to the goodness of God. vs. 1-3

A. The people responded to the finished work of the tent of meeting where God would speak to Moses and the High Priest. vs. 1a

1. The instructions and pattern for the Tabernacle and the furnishings were given in Exodus. Ex. 25--31

2. The promise of God meeting and speaking to the High priest is also in Exodus. Ex. 25:18-22

B. The people responded to the anointing of the Tabernacle and all it's furnishings being set apart for the purpose of fellowship with God. vs. 1b-d

1. The Tabernacle was reared up on the first day of the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. Ex. 40:1-8

2. The anointing of everything was also on the same day. Ex. 40:9-33

3. The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle of meeting and Moses was unable to enter into it, the visible cloud and fire by night was for all to see. Ex. 40:34-38

C. The people responded to the presence of God and the Levites and in celebration made an offering. vs. 2-3

1. The gift was a corporate involvement by the leaders and heads of their father' houses. vs. 2

2. The gift was as offering before the Lord not man. vs 3.

Their giving was in response to the goodness God!

II. Their giving was in response to the work of God. vs. 4-9

- A. The gift was accepted by God as evidence of being from the heart. vs. 4-5a
1. The Lord spoke to Moses that he was to take from the people who desired to bring an offering for the building of the Tabernacle whose heart was in it, "Everyone who gives willingly with his heart you shall take." Ex. 25:1-2
 2. The emphasis of the giving for the Tabernacle in Exodus is always "whose heart was willing". Ex. 35:21, 29
- B. The gift was to be used for doing the work of the Tabernacle of meeting by the Levites at the Lords direction. vs. 5b-c
1. The work was the Lord's as He had directed not Moses' desire to build himself a Kingdom to glorify himself.
 2. The pattern of everything was given to Moses on the mount by God and God's orders were to construct it exactly as He had shown for they represented things in heaven. Ex. 25:9, 40, Num. 8:4, Heb. 8:5
- C. The gift was to be divided by the hand of Moses. vs. 5d-9
1. The gift was to be given to every man according to his service. vs. 5d
 2. The Gershonites received two carts and four oxen, according to their service. vs. 7
* Their work is described. 4:24-26

3. The Merarites received four carts and eight oxen according to their service. vs. 8
* Their work is described. 4:31-32
4. The Kohathites received none because they would carry the Holy furnishings on their shoulders. vs. 9
 - a. For they spoke of the very person of Christ, who was to be exalted above all.
 - b. For this reason Uzzah was struck dead when David transported the Ark on a cart rather than on the shoulders of the priest. 2Sam. 6:3-7
 - c. For this reason David sought the Levite for the manner of Transporting the Ark and returned to bring it to Jerusalem. 1Chron. 15:12-13

Their giving was in response to the work of God!

III. Their giving was in response to their dedication to God. vs. 10-17

- A. The giving was voluntary and before the alter of God who knows the heart. vs. 10
1. It marked a right relationship with God, walking in the light. 1Jn. 1:7
 2. It marked a right relationship with man, walking in love. 1Jn. 4:7-8
 3. It marked a right attitude and motivation in service towards God. Col. 3:23
* Jesus said on the sermon on the mount that if we are not right we should leave our gift at the alter and first be reconciled then return to offer our gift. Math. 5:23-24
- B. The giving was to be consistent. vs. 11

1. Each day a tribe would present their gift.
 2. Each tribe gave the same amount.
- * Every man is to give once a week when the church gathers and takes up the collection as God has prospered him. 1Cor. 16:2

C. The giving was corporate. vs. 12, 18, 24, 30, 36 etc.

1. The corporate giving will always prove to be more than enough for the work. Ex. 36:5-7
2. The giving to God extends far beyond money, in talents, abilities, gifts, time etc. Ex. 36:1
* Every person is to be involved in the giving, no one is to be at ease while the rest are being burdened. 2Cor. 8:13-14

D. The giving was only part of all that God had given them. Ex. 12:35-36

1. They had been slaves in Egypt having nothing.
2. They had been given everything by God.
3. They owed everything to God.

E. The giving was recorded by the Lord. vs. 12-88

1. The repetitious of the exact amount is not to bore us but to let us know that God takes note of every thing, no matter how small or large.
* The woman with the two mites is God's affirmation! Mk. 12:40-44
2. It is most interesting that the two longest chapters in the Bible are Psalm 119 and Numbers 7.
 - a. Psalm mintageen deals with the word of God entirely!
 - b. Numbers seven deals entirely with their financial giving!

Their giving was in response to their dedication to God. !

IV. Their giving response should cause me to reflect on my own giving to God.

- A. My giving should be in response to God's goodness to me.
 1. He delivered me from the world and redeemed me though I didn't deserve it.
 2. He forgave me all of my sins, a debt that I could never repay.
 3. He has chosen to dwell in me and with me.
 4. He is ever ready to receive me and cleanse me from all sin.
- B. My giving should be in response to the work of God.
 1. God will honor only that which is from my heart, halariouly.
 2. God's work is evident by th teaching of the word, the salvation of the lost and the ongoing transformation of peoples lives to become more like Christ.
 3. God's work is different in every church as God directs it.
- C. My giving should be in response to my dedication to God.
 1. My giving should be voluntary not forced.
 2. My giving should be consistent.
 3. My giving should be corporate.
 4. My giving should be unto the Lord, who overseess nothing.

Conclusion

The giving by the leaders of Israel teach us some very important lessons regarding our giving to God. 7:1-17

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God. vs. 1-3
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God. vs. 4-9
- III. Our giving should be in response to our dedication
to God. vs. 10-17