



MORE THAN *Enough*

WE ARE GENEROUS
BECAUSE GOD IS GENEROUS

IT'S MINE TO GIVE

We Don't Give To Get, We Get To Give

Genesis 14:17-23, 1 Samuel 7:3-13, 1 John 2:15-17, Hebrews 7:4-10

INTRODUCTION

ILLUSTRATION: Welcome everyone Online & In Person... Highlight the Series & jump into part 2.

Genesis 14:17-20 *17 After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And **Melchizedek, the king of Salem** and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some **bread and wine**. 19 Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then **Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth** of all the goods he had recovered.*

Giving is our privilege. It was Jesus who said that it's more blessed to give than to receive. Which then leads me to this passage that will set us up today.

1 Samuel 7:12 *Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!"*

Samuel is marking a place that God did a miracle. The miracle was where God defeated the enemies of the Israelites and the Lord came back into Israel.

If we forget what God has done, it will destroy our faith.

Samuel takes this stone & places it there on the ground as a memorial. To remind the people that every time they pass this place is where God made a miracle happen. Why do we need a monument? Because if you're having a hard time finding faith for the future all you need to do is go & look back on the past & see what God has done.

God is moving in our lives & I am learning that Samuel understood something more that I'm still learning more & more today.

**THE FURTHER WE GET FROM THE MIRACLE,
THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE GOING TO FORGET THE MIRACLE**

As you sit here today listening to the sound of my voice, I believe that even if you don't see it... God has helped you. The question is: Have you forgotten about it or do you not see it?

We need systems & practices that remind of us God's faithfulness. It's especially poignant as we head into Thanksgiving expressing gratitude.

Gratitude is one of those things that can change your entire mood. Psychologists will tell us that if we're having a hard time with depression or anxiety, practice gratitude and write down, recite words & see how things begin to shift.

When you express gratitude, it begins to stir up a hopeful attitude. Now when you put your Jesus, expressing Gratitude changes the atmosphere, making the room, the people not matter the size... full of faith.

If you need faith for tomorrow, start by thanking God for His grace today. When God does something in your life, don't stop talking about it. Don't stop celebrating... Don't get old!

Stories of God's faithfulness never get old but people who stop expressing Gratitude do.

ILLUSTRATION Jesus Moore's Story

When you share it continues to produce faith for where you're going. But the further you go, the more you tend to forget. Let's not allow ourselves to get too far away from God's miracles.

Let's also not allow ourselves to camp out at one without moving forward in faith & allowing God to do a new one. God is a miracle working God.

Last week we talked about Tithing & what is the Tithe? All we have belongs to God, we can't take it with us. But he gives us 100, we give back 10 from the top & He empowers us to be successful & generous with the 90.

TITHING IS BIRTH OUT OF A HEART OF GRATITUDE FOR YESTERDAY, BUT FLOURISHES INTO AN ACT OF FAITH FOR TOMORROW

This is one of the many times that we see God use "Tithing" as a principle to bring blessing in your life... But He's looking for us to learn how to trust him. Remembering who is the source of my life. So what happens before Genesis 14, where we see the kings come up to Abraham.

In chapter 12, we see God encounter Abraham at the age of 75. God shows up & makes a huge promise to him. A promise of making him into a great nation. Abraham is also known as the Father of our faith. Now this promise even at the age of 75 requires faith. If you've got a pulse, God has a purpose for your life.

God always requires faith when we're talking about reaching people in OC. We have to be faithful people marked by Faith. Abraham I'm going to make you a father of nations, yet... he has no son.

Abraham, you must leave your home & set out into the land that I will show you. Faith is an action step that starts in your mind & is carried out in your heart. So he takes his wife Sarah, his livestock, servants, and his nephew Lot. As they're on this journey, Lot's servants are having disagreements with Abraham's. Abraham says, look out and pick a land... If you go left, I'll go right & vice versa. Lot looks out & sees this land called Sodom & Gomorrah. The land was pleasing to his eyes because it reminded him of Egypt.

Egypt Eyes.. We're looking into the lens of our flesh. Into the lens of this world. Egypt looked good on the outside but was corrupt on the inside.

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the desires of the flesh & the desires of the eyes & pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

Lot says, I'm going to choose with my eyes... not after talking with God. Egypt was powerful, but it was Godless. We need to all make sure that we don't look out at opportunities with Egypt eyes.

Man that person is really attractive but, they don't love God. I want that job but it will cause me to give up all my values & morals. Wow, those material possessions are so good but I'll sell my soul just to have them. Pushing aside relationships & the opportunities to know God.

Lot choose to live in the land of the flesh & Abraham makes camp next to some trees. But the place didn't really matter because Abraham knew that it was the person who was beautiful.

God, I'm trusting you. I'm stepping out in obedience & I'm not going to give into wrong.

ILLUSTRATION: With each passing day, I see God's faithfulness wherever my family & I setup camp. He's been faithful to be with us. To lead us, guide us, call us, equip us, resource us.

As we look at Genesis 14, there is a huge battle, King Kedo attacks S&G capturing Lot & his family. So Abraham (75 Years old) takes 318 trained men & rescues them along with their possessions.

Genesis 14:21-23 *The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered." 22 Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, 'I am the one who made Abram rich.'*

What a stark contrast between these two kings who come to meet him. Abraham denies what the King of Sodom tried to offer him. Because he doesn't want anyone thinking that's how Abraham earned his riches. When it's all said & done, it's not your intellect or your talents. It's not going to be your strategy or your business partner or plain luck. God fought your battles!

For anyone that is here today: because there are so many entrepreneurs & good stewards here today... God wants you to succeed. He want's to bless you financially so that when it's all said & done... you can't take any of the credit.

GOD REALLY CARES ABOUT WHO GETS THE CREDIT

Genesis 14:18 *And Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out bread & wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)*

When Gratitude hits our heart, we're now left with a response to be generous. That is why we tithe.

PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION LEADS TO A LIFESTYLE OF GENEROSITY

Why else do we tithe? The result of tithing shows three things:

Hebrews 7:4-7 *See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from*

the people, that is, from their brothers though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham & bless him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.

JESUS IS SUPERIOR OVER MY LIFE

Abraham recognized the prince of shalom. The Prince of Peace. That's why if you're new... it's a radical thing to declare that Jesus is Lord over all. That we are blessed to give back to Him.

Sacrifice doesn't make sense until you've had an experience.

Hebrews 7:8 *In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.*

JESUS IS ALIVE IN ME

When we tithe we are declaring that Jesus is Alive in me.

Hebrews 7:9-10 *One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.*

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob changed to Israel, Has 12 sons, one son is named Levi...

JESUS BLESSES MY LEGACY

There's something beautiful that happens when we put God's principle first.

GENEROSITY + GRATITUDE = ABUNDANCE

Having all that I need to fulfill what God has called me to fulfill.

CLOSING

It's time that we step into what God has created us to do. To step into this lifestyle of generosity. You don't have to be rich to be generous. Quit believing the lies that you will always operate from a place of not enough. There's an upcoming generation & we have the opportunity to trust God & see new miracles take place. Miracles that will cause us to be like Samuel... placing a stone in the ground as to not forget but to remember... Tithing helps us build faith for our tomorrows. Giving something that I have right now, knowing that God will meet my needs.

This is what Abraham also shows us that this isn't a prosperity gospel...

DON'T GIVE FOR A BLESSING, GIVE FROM A BLESSING

I don't have to give to get blessed, I give because I have so much to be grateful for...

Creation Story: God created all things & on the 7th day he rested...

We don't work to get rest, we rest to work. We don't give to get, we get to give!

Some of you are struggling with Faith today but God is calling you to step forward... to trust Him. We are generous because God is generous!