

Kingdom Minded Giving!

Welcome

Intro: When you think about 1 Peter, one of the things that God was doing in that moment is breaking the religious systems and structures that were holding people back and preventing them from experiencing life in Christ. When Jesus arrived, the Jewish people were religious, they went to the temple each week, they managed their behavior but they were not spiritual. Jesus came to offer them something better. Jesus came to redefine what it meant to have a relationship with God. Jesus came to bless them and give them abundant life by transforming them from the inside out. Jesus came to reunite them to the Father and empower them to love each other. However, after teaching and modeling that for three years they killed Him and those who followed Jesus were being persecuted. However, God worked through their suffering. This persecution that was intended to destroy the church actually purified it and caused it to flourish. It caused those who were casual fans of Jesus, those who wanted to see a miracle, those who wanted to be entertained to fall away. However, those who stayed were all in and they turned the world upside down. I believe God is working through our circumstances right now to accomplish the same thing. I believe God is pruning and purifying the church. I believe the casual fan who show up to be entertained are going to fall away. However, those who stay engaged are going to see God do some really cool stuff. Listen to Jesus as He describes the last days, **Matthew 24:9-13**. Are we ready? Suffering- those who endure, those who stay engaged, will be saved and will be part of bringing in an end time harvest before the return of the Lord! How do we stay engaged?

- Watching online or in person
- Connecting in a small group
- Learning to begin your day in God's presence and to live in His presence
- Becoming a giver!

Financial situation:

- Three years ago...
- Corona...
- Giving is the fruit of a growing relationship with Jesus but one thing I have to be mindful of is people see our nice building and assume they must have lots of money.
- Those of you who give sacrificially, thank you, we are talking about this so everyone can experience the blessing of giving that you and I have experienced
- If you have lost your job or for some reason do not have an income then of course you cannot give what you do not have.

Why I give?

1. I give to invest in eternity. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Explain: Giving is an investment in souls, in eternity. In fact, the reason you and I know Christ is because of the generosity of the church over the last 2000 years. Today we have more money, more technology, and more opportunity than ever to tell people about Jesus but in order to do that we need a kingdom mindset. We have to live for something bigger than temporary pleasure. When I invest in souls, I will reap the benefits of that investment forever. Not only does my invest lead to eternal life but it leads to eternal rewards

Argue: **Matthew 7:19-24**, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² "Your eye is like a lamp that provides

light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Apply: Let’s give our best to eternity.

2. I give to demonstrate/test the genuineness of my faith. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Explain: Who are you trusting? I started in giving college and giving has really built my faith. Over the last 28 years or so I have given on average about 20% of my income to the lord, through the local church. My giving shows what is most important, what I trust in, who I love, and if I really believe in eternity.

Stats: In America the average Christian gives about 2.4%. That number is a little misleading because we have a group of people who give between 10-20% and most give almost nothing.

- About 200 families give...
- Most people gave less than 200 dollars.
- What does that say about your faith?

Argue: **Luke 6:38**, “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

3. I give because I trust Jesus. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Explain: My spending tells me who or what I trust.

Argue: **Malachi 3:6-18**

Apply: Giving says a lot about who I trust:

- 17% claim to tithe, 3-5% do tithe
- Those who make 75k or more, only 1% tithe
- 77% of those who tithe- tithe on their gross income and give between 11-20% each year.
- 97% of those who tithe make giving their first financial priority
- People who tithe have less debt. 80% have no credit card debt and 28% are completely debt free.

Apply: Do you trust that God is good and when He tells us to do anything it is in our best interest. Tithing is an issue of trust and it helps us make wise financial decisions.

4. I give because I love Jesus more than this world. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Explain: I spend my money on the things I love.

Argue: **Haggai 1:2-6, 2:6-9**

Apply: If God were to examine your finances what would he say you love?

5. I give because I will answer to God. 1 Peter 1:17

Explain: The Bible teaches that all I have belongs to God so I want to make sure I steward His resources for His kingdom.

Argue: **Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 25:26-30**, “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate,²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten

bags of silver. ²⁹To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- We are all stewards
- We will all be held accountable
- What I do here determines what God is willing to trust me with there.

6. I give because Jesus gave. 1 Peter 1:18-20

Explain: When we spend time with Jesus we become like Jesus.

Argue: **Matthew 13:44-45**, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

7. I give because I love God's family. 1 Peter 1:22

Explain: Giving is an expression of love. Just think of all the ways this church has benefitted you and your family. That is because people loved you and wanted to bless you and so they gave.

Argue: **John 3:16**

Illustrate: 20 years ago, Tina and I decided to start having kids. You know what we never did? We never sat down, calculated the cost, in order to decide if kids were too expensive. Having a family was worth whatever the cost.

Apply: We are a family and we need your help. This is a time when we can't afford to pull back, we need to reach out. People need Jesus more than ever before! Which is why we need your help.

- If you are already tithing, giving sacrificially, or don't have an income join me in praying that God in this moment would speak
- Would you become a financial partner? 100, 500, 1000/month
- If you are giving would you consider increasing what you give.
 - We currently get to Daystar 2,100/month, we are going to increase that amount by 500/month for the rest of the year.
- Start giving a tithe. Especially those of you who make over 75k. If you make 500k, and give 20K we are glad you are giving but to whom much is given much is expected. God has blessed you. Consider giving a fill tithe, 10%.

Giving will build your faith, giving is rewarded by God, and giving changes our world!