

INTRO: Particularization tonight. Moved up. Not planned. Preaching on giving? Good timing. Fitting. Don't preach on this specific topic often. Third time in 8 years?

Thesis: *Because Jesus gave everything, we give generously out of gratitude for His grace. GIVE*

I. B/c You CAN

A. Nothing you have is yours. It's on loan. **STEWARDSHIP.**

ILLUSTRATION: A Steward. Land steward. Financial Steward. **House Sitting. Keys. Pets.**

B. Nothing you have is deserved (earned maybe). Gift of Grace. **ABILITIES. TIME.**

C. You have more than you need because of Jesus. Grace upon grace. **GOSPEL.**

ILLUSTRATION: This is after the Golden Calf incident!

APPLICATION:

1. **Budgeting.** Percentages. Money handling. Investments. Banking. Some people need help. Legitimate. Wise spending. Saving. Etc. Ask for help. **Break down ins/outs. In general,** it's best not to go into debt. Payment plans. Etc. **Steward it well.**
2. **Give til it hurts?** Jesus gave everything. Giving includes sacrifice. Giving up some things. Luxuries and comforts. Opportunities. "Rights" and "Privileges." **Careful though...**

II. B/c You CARE

A. **Cheerful Giver.** Not out of compulsion. Pressure. Guilt. But gratitude. Recognize grace.

B. **Hearts stirred them.** Generous/Willing heart. Spirit moved. Could. **Freewill.** Want/Get to.

APPLICATION:

1. **Types of Giving.** Trust. Tithes. Offerings. Campaigns (Specific Needs/Wants).
2. **Designated giving.** We generally don't do that. Often a way to control, steer things in the direction powerful, financially blessed people want. Trust your leaders. Nominate/Vote.
3. **Confidentiality.** I don't look at anything. Very few people will ever see what you give.

III. For a Good CAUSE

A. **There was a need.** Tabernacle. Priests. Worship. > **Church. STAFF.**

ILLUSTRATION: Maybe we just start a different **GOFUNDME** for each quarter. **Venmo? :-)**

B. **People. Disciples.** Community. World (Missions).

C. **Glory of God.** Kingdom expansion. Salvation of Lost. Sinners saved. Hope restored. Lives renewed.

D. **It's gonna happen if God wants it to, with or without you.** You'll want to be a part. You'll be thankful you were. If God wants this church to succeed and grow, it will.

E. **He will provide.** Not a cop out. He's going to provide through regular means. **Giving.**

APPLICATION:

1. **Particularization.** "Moving out on our own." Still call mom and dad for help. But for the most part, we want to be able to become self-sufficient. It's time to grow up. :-) And this is something worth giving to.
2. **Give Time & Skill as well. v.10, 25, 35, 36:2.** Your abilities and time are a gift. You can give those too. Give everything. All areas. Jesus gave everything for you. **Gratitude & Grace.**
3. **"Let me know if there's a need."** There's always a need. We have a budget. And a staff. And a community. And a mission. Don't wait to give for a good reason/need, You have one! Trust your leaders, trust the budget, trust the staff, trust the volunteers, serve and give.
4. **Giving to the LORD.** Yes it goes through Moses, Bezalel and Oholiab. But ultimately its given to the LORD. Trust Him with it. If they're corrupt and misuse it, He will deal with them.

They gave in EXCESS! What an awesome problem to have. We have more than we need, we're going to give more away. To Missions. To Community. To Churches.