

Obedient Giving Part 3

Sacrificial Giving

Steve Berger March 20, 2016

Sacrificial Giving

- more than a tithe
- can be more than a freewill offering
- it is what will make our goal happen
- *if you've already decided what you will give, don't be surprised if that number increases as a result of this teaching — this truth is that powerful!*

Amazing story of the Widow's mites

- **Mark 12:41**
Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.
- Jesus intentionally positioned Himself to behold, consider, and discern how people gave — giving is that important — as we have seen over last two weeks
- the rich put in much — monetarily speaking

Cultural thought of the day is that the rich had special favor with God because of their large offerings, so that their salvation was guaranteed

Shocking fact — large gifts, monetarily speaking — are a lot different than sacrificial gifts — in God's eyes.

- **Mark 12:42**
Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.
- she threw in 2 cents, not much monetarily speaking — right?

Jesus clarifies:

- **Mark 12:43**
So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;”
- she put in more than all the rich — no way, impossible.

Whole point of the story — whole point of sacrificial giving in next verse —

- **Mark 12:44**
“...for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”
- the rich put in out of their abundance, what wouldn't be missed
- what didn't really move them, or cost them
- although it was **much more monetarily** — it was **much less sacrificially**
— there was **no GULP factor** in their gift — no, “God, here I go, I can't believe I'm doing this!”

How the Macedonians gave — sacrificially

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**
Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploping us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

They gave out of...

- deep trial of affliction... circumstances were bad, ravaged by war, plundered by Romans
- deep poverty... extremely poor
- they imploring with much urgency... begging Paul to let them give
- abundantly joyful... no complaining about their sacrifice, quite the opposite
- they gave sacrificially, *after* they had already given their tithe to the Lord

A beautifully clear picture of the heart and deed behind sacrificial giving, and it leaves a legacy, it has been an example to the church for two thousand years...

**Their gift gave and lived and touched
way beyond what they ever thought it would —
and it continues to give, live, and touch today!**

Three points on sacrifice...

- it's **not the size of the gift** that matters to Jesus, it's the **size of the Gulp!**
- it's **not about how much we give**, it's about **how much we have left over after we give**, that gets Jesus' attention
- we are **not asking for equal gifts** from all, we are **asking for equal sacrifice** from all

Promises to remember as we approach the offering

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “HE HAS DISPERSED ABROAD, HE HAS GIVEN TO THE POOR; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

God’s will for Grace Chapel — that we would be

- faithful, obedient tithers
- generous free-will offerers
- joyful sacrificial givers

If we are — God promises

- open the windows of heaven and pour out blessing we can’t contain
- rebuke the devourer
- reap bountifully
- all grace abound
- all sufficiency in all things
- abundance for every good work
- righteousness will endure forever
- seed multiplied, increased fruits
- enriched in everything
- God will be thanked because of our giving

We give because He gave

- **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**It has been said “we are never more like our Heavenly Father
than when, out of love,
we give sacrificially.”**

To watch a video — of condensed highlights of Grace Chapel's legacy of sacrificial giving, go to the Grace Chapel web site, and watch the sermon from today.

- 1. Envelopes are available from the church office, and are available Friday.**
- 2. Let's come together Friday night at 6:30 pm, prayed up, believing and sacrificing!**
- 3. Let's watch God move as we commit to something bigger than ourselves for generations to come.**

Sacrificial Offering

Join us for a Sacrificial Offering

Grace Chapel Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 25th — 6:30 p.m.

Be in prayer to see how God might bless you through this night.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** How are large gifts different than sacrificial gifts in God's eyes?
- 2.** Discuss: "It's not about the size of the gift, it's about the size of the "GULP!"
- 3.** How do you know if your pain threshold is too low?
- 4.** In 2 Corinthians 8: 5, it says that the Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord, *before* giving their sacrificial offering. What can you infer from that?
- 5.** How can the promises in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 help you move from giving out of religious duty, to giving with a joyful, spirit?