

Oak Valley Baptist Church

GOD OWNS IT ALL • GIVE • 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2; LUKE 21:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 8:2-4 •

10/10/2021

MAIN POINT

My giving is a reflection of my recognition of God's role as owner and my role as His steward.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

When you think about giving, what emotional response do you have: shame, joy, guilt, fear, other? Explain.

In the video session, Ron said that only 5% of the evangelical community tithes. Why do you think that is?

Considering that statistic, why do you think so many pastors feel awkward or apologetic whenever they preach or teach about giving?

The giving piece of the pie is one of the most sensitive topics in managing finances. But giving is another way to apply the principle that God owns it all and that we're simply His stewards. Giving prompts us to grow in gratefulness for God's provision and submit to His authority and recognize He owns all that we have.

| WATCH THE SESSION 4 VIDEO FEATURING RON BLUE.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| INVITE A VOLUNTEER TO READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2.

Why did Paul instruct the Corinthians to set aside their giving on the first day of each week?

In what way does a pattern of planned, regular giving demonstrate obedience in a way that a pattern of unplanned, irregular giving cannot?

Why do you think many believers do not consider the command to give as important as other commands?

In the video session, Ron described three levels of giving. The first one is “should.” In Scripture, we are commanded to regularly give, proportionate to our incomes. We must be intentional about establishing this pattern of obedience through giving.

| INVITE TWO VOLUNTEERS TO READ LUKE 21:1-4 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 8:2-4.

Why do you think Jesus called out the difference between the rich givers and the poor widow in Luke 21? Was His point about the actual physical offerings, or something else? Explain.

Why would people in extreme poverty be compelled to beg the apostles for the opportunity to support them financially? Have you ever felt compelled to give above and beyond what you were able? What does such a desire say about a person’s worldview?

Why is it important to imagine the possibilities of generosity?

These two passages illustrate the second and third levels of giving Ron described: “could” and “would.” In contrast to the rich givers who made a great show of their offerings, the poor widow gave generously with only the smallest Jewish currency at the time. Her offering wasn’t just about, “I should, because that’s what is expected.” It was about, “I could because I have something, and I would because I believe God can multiply even the smallest sacrifice for His glory.”

| INVITE A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7.

Does this verse mean you shouldn’t give if you can’t do it cheerfully? What does it mean?

What reasons do we have for giving cheerfully, regardless of our individual circumstances?

Would you consider yourself a cheerful giver?

What would need to change for you to be able to give cheerfully?

Giving reveals God’s love for us and demonstrates our love for others. God’s generous love is unmatched. In sending Jesus to the cross, He gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we could have

life. Not only that, but He also continues to generously provide for our needs every day—physically and spiritually—by the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is through the Spirit’s power that we can demonstrate God-sized generosity with joy in our hearts

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Ron named the following as motives for giving: obedience, to break the power of money, to recognize God’s ownership, rewards, and love. Which one is most compelling to you? Why?

Do you believe giving can break the power of money in your life? If so, how? If not, why not?

Share the following quote from Oswald Chambers: “Never be diplomatic and careful with the treasure God gives you.” What truths can you take away from that quote for your life today? What would it look like for you to incorporate those truths into your finances?

PRAYER

Thank God for His generosity toward you. Invite Him to grow you in your obedience and generosity toward Him in regard to your finances. Ask Him to give you wisdom for what He wants you to give and where He wants you to give.

COMMENTARY