

Breakthrough Giving

What do you want to be remembered for? (Your legacy)

- Abraham Lincoln: Abolishing slavery in the US
- Thomas Edison: The Light Bulb
- Neil Armstrong: first man to walk on the moon
- Harley Davidson: maker of the world's finest motorcycles!!

I'll come back to this...just think about it...

Philippians 4 is such a great chapter in The Bible!!

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Now, I want to take that verse 19 and back it up just a little... and read it in context....

16 For even in Thessalonica **you sent aid once and again** for my necessities. **17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit** that abounds to your account. **18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full,** having received from **Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.** 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

You see, the simple truth that allowed Paul to make the, now famous, statement;

- **19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Was the fact and knowledge that this body of believers understood giving...

- Financially supporting The Ministry

This is such a big deal that they are recorded for all future generations to read about their generous giving in The Holy Bible

Now I want to point out some specific contained in these verses about the importance of giving:

Verse 16: you sent aid once and again

- These were recurring offerings
- Continuous giving
- Not a simple one time offering

Verse 17: Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit

One portion of The Fruit of The Spirit is

- Faithfulness

And that is two-part:

- Having faith (completely trusting God in every area of your life)
- Demonstrating your faith in every area of your life
- That includes your financial giving....

I asked a question at the beginning of this

- What do you want to be remembered for?
- These people are remembered for their “Faithfulness”
- And demonstrated through their giving!!!

18: Paul said:

- “I have all and abound. I am full”
- “Having received... the things sent from you”

There is a huge statement here about “lack” in ministry...

- Paul said “I’m lacking nothing...”
- Because of the faithful giving of the church

Because of the faithful giving of the church:

- The Gospel was preached to other areas
- Churches were planted
- People were saved
- Disciples were made
- And the preacher was provided for...without lack!!

Paul goes on to say that their giving was noticed by God Himself!!!

That their offerings were:

- an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God

If you look at all of these points kind of like a math problem...

- Continuous giving +
- Being Faithful +
- Supplying all the needs of the ministry +
- Giving sacrificially (giving with the desire to please to God) =
- God supplying all of your needs according to His riches

Does that make sense to you?

- Or would you rather continue taking the Scripture out of context...
- And miss out on the abundant life that Jesus has to offer....

Look...It may sound like I'm making a big deal out of giving...

- Well, I am
- **Because God makes a big deal out of giving!!!**

I'm going to show you two more places in The Bible where people are remembered for their generous giving...

Matthew 26:6-13

The Anointing at Bethany

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an **alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head** as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, **wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.**"

We see here a woman who gave out of devotion, gave from her love for Jesus

- She gave extravagantly

Is everyone going to support extravagant giving?

- Of course not!!!

- There will always be people who come against that
- Telling you that you are foolish
- But Jesus is telling you right here...pay them no attention!!!

You see, this is so important that it's not like I just want to talk about her...

- I feel like I have a responsibility to talk about this giving demonstration
- "wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

If I'm going to preach The Gospel... I have to preach this!!!

Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Two Mites

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. 42 Then one poor widow came and **threw in two mites**, which make a quadrans. 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; 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 first thing I want you to notice here is the attention Jesus gave to how people were giving....

- **He does take notice of your giving...**

And the second point here is:

- God doesn't compare what you give to anyone else
- If your tithe is \$40.00 and someone else's is \$400.00
- That means nothing to God
- It's about your personal faithfulness

You see, that's the whole truth about giving....

- It's all about your faithfulness
- It's about trusting God
- And demonstrating that trust

Jesus could choose another way to "fund" His ministry

- But He chooses to do it through you (His Church)
- It all belongs to Him anyway

I want to show you this last Scripture for today

Deuteronomy 14:22-23**Tithing Principles**

22 “You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. 23 And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, **that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.**

- **The purpose of the tithe is to place God first in your life**

I’ll tie that in directly with New Testament principles...

Matthew 6:33

33 But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you.

If you have ever thought that giving (tithes and offering) were just not really important, I hope today has changed your mind...

- **Jesus really does pay attention to your giving**
- **And He remembers you on how you give**
- **Not from me...straight from The Bible...**

How do you want to be remembered?

- As a person who served God with all you had?
- As a person of great faith, trusting God completely?
- As someone who was faithful?

What would God say about you right now?

- How would God measure your service?
- How would God grade your faith
- All based upon your giving...?

Are you looking for a financial breakthrough this year...?

- Well, that’s between you and God...

Luke 6:38

38 **Give, and it will be given to you**: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For **with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.**”