

Worship – part 12

I Chronicles 29:13-16 –

The offering hadn't been David's and the money hadn't belonged to the people—It was all God's
--God's bank account doesn't have any accounts receivable because when we give we are just giving what was always His.

--We will be held accountable for how we handled that which wasn't, isn't, and will never be ours.

1. Understanding this is so important because it effects how we treat God.

A man took his son to McDonald's to grab a bite to eat. The boy was young and loved French fries. So, the dad bought an extra-large French fry order for the two of them to share. They were sitting and eating at a table. The dad reached over to take a few fries, and the little boy pulled the fries to himself. He explained to the boy how they are were sharing but the boy was reluctant let his dad have some the fries. Later on God began to speak to him through that incident. He began to think, "Didn't he realize that I paid for all the food?" "Didn't he realize that I can take those fries away any time I want?" "Does he know that I can go over to the counter and order enough fries to fill the table, the seat—to bury him in fries!?" "Didn't know that I didn't need to share with him I just wanted to share a few fries with him?"

--He thought to himself, "that's the way I treat God."

--The little boy thought he owned the fries so he believed he had the right to decide whether or not his dad deserved those fries.

--When we think we own it we think we get to decide not only whether God gets a share but also what is done with that share.

Golden Rule – He who owns the gold makes the rules: Haggai 2:8

Golden Praise Rule – He who owns the gold gets the praise.

--The praises for the temple offering all went to God because He owned it all.

There was a secular article comparing how we tend to think and deal with giving in our churches. It compared two givers in one church: a rich man who gave hundreds of thousands to upgrade the musical instruments and sound system in the church—he was publicly recognized and a plaque with his name on it was placed on the Organ he paid so much for. The other person was a widow who'd been a member there for 40 years. She had tithed faithfully to her church but no recognition for her.

--Something is messed up about that: I Chronicles 29:16; 20

--He who owns the gold gets the Praise.

2. If God owns it all, why does He want me to give?

--God wants us to give because He's given us a choice: Joshua 24:15 ---God is sovereign but He has given us the right to choose our destiny—What you believe determines where you go:

John 3:16; John 3:36; Acts 16:31

What you decide determines who you follow: Luke 9:23

What you choose determines who you serve: Matthew 6:19-21

Talk is cheap but worship is expensive.

Speaking of cheap talk, that is what the Israelites were doing which spawned one of the most comprehensive statements of God's opinion on giving.

3. Will a man rob God?

Malachi 3:8-9

--Is it possible to rob God of money? No. But it is possible and the constant practice of many to rob God of glory, of praise, of worship that is what they were doing.

--**V. 7** --They had turned away from God and His statutes and their return to Him was demonstrated through their giving.

--Talk is cheap but worship is expensive!

--Where your treasure is, that's where your heart is.

4. Your first is your best.

The tithe was paid first: **Proverbs 3:9** --your first is your best, your first is what means the most to you.

5. Giving is the only place where God tells us to test Him.

--**Matthew 4:7**

--**Malachi 3:10** – “Put Me first and watch how I put you first”: **V. 11**

--You'll do so much better off of 90 or 80 or 70% of your income that is blessed by God than with 100% that isn't.

6. Giving turns us into blessings. V. 12

Giving changes us – A study back in 2000 found that those who gave, and especially church people who gave faithfully also gave 87.5% of all charitable contributions in the nation!

7. Giving the tithe has always been a standard.

Hebrews 7:4; 9-10 – Abraham gave one tenth to this man who represents Jesus in the Old Testament.

--Technically, all the tribes of Israel including the tribe of Levi, the priestly tribe, tithed the priesthood of Jesus.

Why 1/10? It is the representative percentage.

--It is all God's so He could set any number He wanted to receive from us to recognize His ownership including 100%, but He only asks for the this representative amount = 10%.

--Isn't tithing a part of the Old Testament Law and we in the New Testament don't have to follow it?

--It was incorporated into the Jewish laws, but Abraham lived more than 400 years before those laws were written.

--The tithe was not from the law but from the heart.

--This is why, in the New Testament, the tithe is not a law but from the heart.

--It's a matter of choice: II Corinthians 9:7

--Remember what worship is? Mark 12:30-31