



THIS MEANS WAR

PART 2: SACRIFICING FOR THE CAUSE

INTRODUCTION – LIVING IN BOOT CAMP

Mark 4:18-19; Luke 19:8-9; Matthew 12:22-29; 2 Timothy 2:3-4

THREE COMMITMENTS FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP...

1. We're committed to moving way beyond fund-raising, to _____-making.
2. We're not talking about finances as our focus _____.
3. We're not teaching anything that we're not _____.

GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

Luke 16:9-15

A. The Value of Giving

- i) Giving is an act of worship. (Acts 10:1-4)
- ii) Giving helps others in practical ways to others. (2 Cor. 8:13-14, 9:12)
- iii) Giving helps the giver grow – it is spiritually therapeutic. (Mark 12:41-44)

B. The Context of Giving

- i) God owns everything (1 Chron. 29:11-14)
- ii) We are his managers (Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 16:10-13)

C. The First Step of Giving

- i) "Tithe" (Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:8-10)
 - a. The Levite Tithe (Num. 18:21, 24)
 - b. The Festival Tithe (Deut. 12:17-18, 14:22-23)
 - c. The Poor Tithe (Deut. 14:28-29, 26:12-12)
- ii) "Firstfruits" (Prov. 3:9)
- iii) Freewill Offerings (Lev. 22:18-23, Num. 15:3, Deut. 12:6, 17, Ezra 1:5-6)
- iv) New Testament Response
 - a. Tithing is assumed. (Matt. 23:23)
 - b. Tithing isn't enough. (Matt. 23:23)

v) 3 Objections...

- a. But we're under grace! (Gen. 14:20, 28:22, Luke 11:42)
- b. But I can't afford to tithe! (Mal. 3:8-10)
- c. But it's a lot of money!

D. The Guidelines for Giving

- i) Give Proportionately (1:Cor 16:2, Acts 11:29)
- ii) Give Regularly & Systematically (1 Cor. 16:2)
- iii) Give Generously (2 Cor. 8:1-2, Ex. 36:3 & 7, Mark 14:3-9)
- iv) Give Sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:3) (We're called to go beyond generosity to sacrifice.)
- v) Give with a 'Privilege' Attitude, resulting in Joy (2 Cor. 8:4; 9:7)
- vi) Give as Worship (2 Cor 8:5, Acts 10:1-4)
- vii) Give to Grow (2 Cor. 8:7; 9:6)
- viii) Give Voluntarily (2 Cor. 8:4, 8, 10; 9:7)

LIVING LIKE A CHRIST-FOLLOWER – A SIMPLE SUMMARY...

Live _____ your means (**Ephesians 4:28**).
Give _____ your ability (**2 Corinthians 8:3**).

CURRENT BATTLE STATUS – OPERATION BASE CAMP

Our vision is _____.
Our need is _____.
Our opportunity is _____.

CONCLUSION – OUR NEVER-CHANGING FOCUS

2 Corinthians 8:9

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

Warming Up...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you. What "principle of giving" challenges you most?

Look to the Book...

2. Read Jesus' teaching on money and possessions in Luke 12: 13-34. a) What about the course of action chosen by the rich man in the parable would be congratulated by typical financial counsel given today? b) How does God counter that? c) What verse in Jesus' teaching in v. 22-23 stands out to you the most? Why? d) How seriously do you think we should take Jesus' command to "**sell your possessions and give to charity**" (NASB)? In what ways does giving to The Meeting House qualify as "charity"? Are there any ways that it does not? What can or should we do in response to that? [Home Church leaders: Please record any potentially significant suggestions and feedback to your coaches.] e) Review: How can Jesus' point in v.34 help us counter the 'propaganda of the enemy' regarding materialism and consumerism?

So What?...

3. Take a few moments to quietly meditate on Mark 4:18-19. What are some ways that you tend to get choked by these things? Pray prayers of repentance and resolve to God, as well as for each other's strength in areas of weakness.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – March 21 / 28, 2004