

**Conversations Series**  
**The Two Brothers**  
**08/28/21**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

- pray
- (comments about series)
- (talk about Shalom starting next week)
- (talk about Communion...)

**-Luke 12:13-21**

**Introduction**

-Let's do another giveaway...**if you had to pick one word that describes the most talked about subject in Jesus' teachings and in the entire New Testament, what would it be?** (money)

- 16 of the 38 parables
- 1 out of every 12 verses in the NT
- 500 prayer verses...
- < 500 faith verses...
- over 2,000 on money and finances!

**-Luke 12:22-34**

-(tell the story of that Italian restaurant in Clearwater, Florida...as a side note, the fire that year was daunting in the rear view mirror as we drove home...)

-I like to say that preaching on giving is like anchovies in a Caesar salad...just enough for flavor but too much is a little fishy...can you imagine if we talked about it as much as Jesus did?  
(you have to flavor the culture of your church with teaching about giving.)

-The two most important verses for us are 21 and 33-34...and *Jesus makes a clear and undeniable claim that having a rich relationship with God is directly connected to how we use our money here on earth.*

**-God doesn't need our money. (verse 33)**

**-Nothing is more important than feeling affection for God. (verse 15)**

**-Money is a means of feeling the richness of that affection. (verses 21 and 34)**

-Matthew 22:35-40

*-Do you really think Jesus would tell us that loving God and others is more important than anything else and then spend most of His time teaching about something unrelated?*

**-God's love for us is unaffected by our giving...but Jesus clearly connects our love for God to our generosity.**

-So let's talk about one of the Bible's most controversial money concepts: tithing.

### **Why 10 Percent? (college student raffle, last chance)**

-Genesis 14:18-20 (we first see 10%, pre-Mosaic Law)

-Matthew 23:23 (If Jesus says anything one time, that's enough for me!)

-God created the human heart with the capacity to feel affection.

- **Memories (keep sakes)**
- **People**
- **Aspirations**
- **Places**
- **Careers**
- **Possessions**
- **Assignments**

*-Every time we give, that monetary gift represents an "opportunity cost" meaning it carries the value of what you COULD HAVE done with that money!*

**-College student giveaway...what will they do with that \$50...what could they have done? (LOL...SB or CF meal)**

-(use child sponsorship through FH as an example...point back to the list for what I could have done with that \$32 a month)

**-(point back to the list above) verse 34 is teaching us about opportunity cost as it relates to affection!**

**-I believe God chose a percentage because He wanted both the billionaire and the day laborer to have equal opportunity for the same experience, a proportional opportunity cost that is voluntarily sacrificed!**

-So you see that check that Vanessa and I write every month carries with it value...value that is understood through what we gave up, value that can be measured by the affection we chose not to create...but that affection isn't lost! That affection is now assigned to God!!!

-(re-read verses 21 and 33-34)

-I've been tithing my whole adult life...long before I was in vocational ministry...and I'm convinced this is one of the reasons my relationship with Him is rich and vibrant. (ITS' CUMMULATIVE!!!!!!!)

### **Is There A Cost?**

-Malachi 3:7-10

- just prior to 400 yrs of prophetic silence)
- 90% with God's favor is always more than 100% without
- I still believe tithing is connected to redemption (Me and Mine Series)

-Malachi 3:11-18

-explain the contrast between verses 16-18 and the verses before...God is making a distinction between those who loved God and those who did not...

-point out in verse 16 the people were talking to one another...God's listening to our conversations people...are we encouraging one another to love God more!

*-The greatest cost IS NOT having access to less resource here. The greatest cost IS NOT forgoing God's favor on temporal material possessions. **The greatest cost is a loss in the richness of my***

**relationship with God AND how my actions are supposed to inspire others to discover affection for God themselves!**

-(read giving testimony)

-2 Corinthians 9:1-2,5 (how are we stirring each other up?)

-If I give out of compulsion or obligation then I am paying a bill. A debt paid does not carry with it a capacity for affection...because it never had the opportunity to be something else (the list).

*-God wants there to be margins in our finances. If there are margins in our finances then there is freedom of choice. Freedom of choice creates the capacity for me to assign elsewhere the affection forgone. So when I give to things that God loves, I assign that affection to Him.*

## **Band**

-Be careful to not be dismissive of something just because it is new or unfamiliar.

-**2 Kings 23:1-3** (Josiah 624 BC and David in 1056 BC...400 years and so much had been lost)

-I believe for some of you, this a Josiah moment...you've discovered something in Scripture!

-I think people are going to hear this message and give because they are going to discover the same perspective I have = ***there is nothing like the feeling of being rich in love with God and I'm going to trust Jesus to teach me how.***

## **Close**

-Luke 12:35-38...the reward is always His company, His companionship!