

**Me and Mine Series
Ten Percent
01/23/21
Newport News**

Opening

-NEXT WEEK!!!!

-encourage folks to grab dinner out after next Saturday's service (1/30, 15th Anniversary)...dinner with some church family.

-When I was writing this sermon all of a sudden I had the soundtrack of **The Sound of Music** echoing in my head...especially the line, "These are a few of my favorite things..." Now you have it in your head...lol!

Introduction

-Two of my favorite things as a Christian are fasting and tithing. Seriously, they are...because I credit those two things with much of the break through and transformation I have experienced in my life.

(tell story of bachelor party video...are you willing to do your part to become the person God has created you to be...describe the feeling you had...from shame and embarrassment to feeling alive, I was being born anew!) (plug Praxis and then talk about more to come...)

-(talk about fasting that first year every Thursday and Scott showing up at your Thursday Bible study every week with a HUGE plate of food...lol!)

-Tithing was also an immediate change...that's what I'm talking about tonight. Why did these two things spark so much change in my life...**because they both battle the raging desire in all of us for Me and Mine!**

-Following Jesus has never been just about the acceptance of something true. Following Jesus has always been about the submission of all of me to all of Him...it's time for us to say to parts of ourselves, catch up!

-Revelation 17:3-6...the cup of drunkenness inspired the name of this series...Me and Mine!

-The accumulation of assets without Gospel context will create a God complex. It's not the percentage that pleases God, but generous, open-handed posture of the heart that gives it.

Randy Alcorn – "Giving affirms Christ's lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him."

A Principle (Priority, Percentage, Promise, & Place)

-Psalm 24:1-3

-The principle of tithing begins with understanding that everything we have belongs to God, not just the 10 percent we give back.

-Stewardship and Generosity are often confused, they are not synonyms...stewardship is understanding God's plan for everything you have materially because it's all His. Generosity is the practice of giving some of what you have away to others.

-Tithing is one component of the pathway of Generosity. (explain)

- **Romans 15:25-26 (missions)**
- **Proverbs 28:27 (poor)**
- **Exodus 36:3-7 (projects)**

-Matthew 23:23

-from OT to NT grace was never intended as excuse to live less

A Priority

-Two men were marooned on an island. One man paced back and forth worried and scared while the other man sat back and was sunning himself. The first man said to the second man, "aren't you afraid we are about to die." "No," said the second man, "I make \$100,000 a week and tithe faithfully to my church every week. My Pastor will find me."

-Matthew 6:19-21

-(read from The Treasure Principle)

-Jim Elliott (killed on the mission field in 1956)

-"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

-Proverbs 3:9-10

A Percentage

-Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22

-(crossing the threshold of sacrifice...) (corners were ABOVE the 10%!!!)

-Exodus 34:20

-the principle of redemption explained... **(tithing vs. reciprocity)**

-90% with God's blessing is ALWAYS more than 100% without God's blessing.

A Promise

-Malachi 3:10 (30 day challenge)

-"Me" He says...its personal! (AND just before 400 years of prophetic silence)

-The promises of God are not dependent on your season!

-1 Kings 17:8-15...sometimes God asks us to give during a season of lack...

-Exodus 36:6-7...sometimes God asks us to give during a season of abundance... (Moses had to tell the people to STOP giving...LOL!)

A Place

-1 Corinthians 16:2

-The culture of City Life is to tithe to the House because we refuse to teach at a degree of specificity that exceeds the exactness of the text.

Band

-people can make a legitimate argument to divide their tithe out for various Christian causes...but the culture here at City Life is tithing to the church you call home

-it's part of the culture here because we have a deep and abiding belief that society needs churches to have professional clergy that are fully resourced and staffed to meet a community's spiritual needs.