

The Widow's Mite
01/11/20
Newport News Campus

Opening

- Missions Giving!!!!!!
- Bible class audit... (1/9 – 4/23)
- Steve next week...
- new series last weekend in January...

Introduction

-what are some goals for this year, resolutions?

-for those who are trying to find a church home...

-Luke 20:45-47

-Luke 21:1-4

-Luke 21:5-6

Jesus in his observation of the widow making her offering at the Temple gives us 5 STARTING questions we should all ask before calling a church home.

Leadership Culture?

-Luke 20:46

-Mark 10:42-45

*-Are there **elders** who are unpaid who have a real voice in the church when it comes to finances, vision, beliefs, and promoting other leaders?*

*-Is the lead pastor in a **permission giving relationship** with the elders and accountable to fellowship or denomination?*

-What is the **reputation** of the senior leaders, are they respected and esteemed? (Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

-Proverbs 15:22

Community Impact?

-Luke 20:47

-Who would feel your absence?

-SAME, South Morrison, PORT, Catalyst Effect, IV, CRU, Established Footsteps, VA Beach Justice Initiative, City Council Prayers, VUP...meeting coming up with Riverside Elementary, supporting the neighborhood association, supporting area churches

-in 2017 we spent over \$45k in missions both home and abroad...

-Romans 10:14-15

Doctrines & Beliefs?

-Luke 21:5-6

-John 4:19-20

-Jesus in talking with His disciples in Luke 21 is telling us that so many of the doctrines and beliefs that divide us here won't even matter in Heaven!

- **Denominations**
- **Theological Streams (all the "isms" and "ists")**
- **Women leaders**
- **Spiritual Language**
- **Tithing**

-Recent Blog (www.letspraxis.com/blog-society)

We have been convinced that unless everyone agrees with everything we believe, those in disagreement are wrong. We have lost sight of Paul's expectation in Colossians 3:14 where he says that we should clothe ourselves with love which binds us all together in perfect harmony. The NASB uses instead of "perfect harmony" says "the perfect bond of unity." This greek phrase is actually teleiotes (perfect) sundesmos (bond of unity). This word for perfect is the same word

found in Hebrews 6:1 that translates to maturity. And the word for bond of unity is the same Paul uses in Ephesians 4 to speak of a bond of peace. In every instance, sameness is never implied or stated! On the contrary, the context for Biblical instruction regarding unity always necessitates differences. That is why the NLT employs the word harmony.

-find a church whose doctrines and beliefs resonate with you but are not so arrogant about their positions that they need others to be wrong so they can feel right.

Valuing Myself?

-Luke 21:1-4 (how we measure generosity, how we value ppl)

-1 Corinthians 12:14-18

-All of us who have read or heard these verses before understand Jesus was bringing correction to the wealthy...but He was also speaking to the widow.

-Is it a church that inspires you to believe in your giftedness, your purpose?

- **BREAKING THE WIDOW MINDSET**
- Participation brings transformation
- Praxis...ALL 12 Pathways!
- Fine line between taking a break and being a taker...

Band

-The most important part of finding a church is whether or not you feel His presence there.

Luke 21:1a...

-Is Jesus there?

Close

-(decide in the moment)