

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/30/17

Text: Genesis 14:8-9, 11-15:1

Title: Stewardship #1 - Tithing

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Tim began our three-part series on the topic of stewardship. There are three aspects of God's story that affect our generosity. As we look at God's creation and see Him as our King, we realize that we "ought to give." When we look at the Fall and our sinfulness, we realize that we "need to give." And when we see our salvation in Jesus, we realize that we "want to give." As we focussed today on God as our King we saw that as God's people we are invited to give To God, Through his servants, For people in need (both temporally and spiritually). And that's exactly what Jesus has done for us. He is our generous King who calls us to generosity.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. When it comes to tithing, Tim said there are likely three kinds of people sitting in church.*
 - 1. Those who have committed to a habit and lifestyle of giving.*
 - 2. Those who were never taught to tithe, and thus feel guilty that they don't.*
 - 3. Those who know they should give, and are willfully not doing so.*
 - Which of the three categories do you fall into?**
 - What did you learn about money and tithing growing up?**
 - Why do you choose to (or not to) tithe?**
- 2. Tim said tithing and generosity is not situational, it is a habit of character.*
 - How can you, as a Community Group, help each other grow in the skill of tithing and generosity? Who could teach you how to tithe?**
 - How have you blamed situations rather than choices for your tithing habits?**
- 3. As the hero, Abram not only refused a reward, but he also gave a tithe to the priest. He had less at the end of the battle than at the beginning, but what he had gained was people who had been redeemed. In the same way it would have been far less expensive for Jesus to stay in heaven, but what he gained by giving up everything was the people he loved and redeemed.*
 - What excites you, or scares you, about tithing?**
 - What helps you let go of your material possessions and be generous to others, or to God?**
- 4. God says to Abram, I am your shield and your very great reward. God's people are called his bride, and with every marriage our spouse inherits both the wealth and the*

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debt we bring in. Jesus marries us, takes on our debt of sin and hell, and gives us his righteousness in return. As God's bride we get Him, full access to the living God.

- **How does Jesus' deliberate generosity change your view of your possessions?**
- **What do you need Holy Spirit to do in your heart to help you find joy in generosity?**

A.C.T.S.

(Take time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas, then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group. Begin with the ACTS questions and use the prayer items from the worship folder as suggestions if you're having a hard time coming up with answers.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?

*Worship the LORD for His pure and free generosity. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how He is the Owner of literally **everything**, and yet He shares it so freely, even with the unrighteous.*

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?

How have you lived as if you own yourself, and that you owe God nothing? Confess your arrogance and foolishness to Jesus, asking Him not only to forgive you but to re-orient you to His good ownership.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to give so freely. Thank Him for coming to your rescue, to take you in even when you were so heavy in debt, and to endow you so richly with all of His eternal possessions!

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

*Read Prov. 3:5-10. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your readiness to honor the LORD with the **firstfruits** of your productivity - with your possessions. Pray for an eagerly generous heart.*

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that is selfish and stingy? Pray for them, asking the LORD to help them see the beauty of His generosity, and His trustworthiness to both provide and protect.