

Breakout, Part 3

Send it Ahead (David in 2 Samuel 7)

There are times in life where we have Kairos moments--moments where God is trying to break into our lives/thoughts to teach us something so we can grow closer to Him. One common area is finances. If you find yourself recoiling away from a discussion of a biblical view of financial stewardship, you probably do not want to surrender that area of your life to God. Consider it like the check engine light on your car, a warning that you need to "look under the hood." Might you be holding tighter to your money than to God?

Three common errors we can make in giving:

1. Christians who don't give: Discussions about giving rub them the wrong way because money is their idol; they have not allowed Jesus to be sovereign over finances.
2. Mechanical Tither Christians: They give 10% to fulfill a rule, but only out of obligation or habit.
3. Always-feel-guilty Christians: No matter how much they give, it never seems to be enough. They always feel guilty for not giving more.

David as an Example of a Biblical Attitude Towards Giving: In 2 Samuel 7, David desires to build a house for God, but God says he will build *David* a house. David thinks he needs to do something for God but instead ends up sitting in God's presence focusing on knowing him. We don't give because God needs our money (He isn't weak/poor/in need), but rather because He deserves to be worshiped/glorified.

1. *David wanted to leverage his money for God's eternal kingdom:* He wanted to be a long term part of what God was doing. Our time on earth is short and we can't take our money with us. We should instead invest it into things that have eternal worth (Matthew 6:19-20).
2. *David's Gratefulness led him to give:* David insisted on paying for the field for temple because he didn't want to give an offering to God that didn't cost him anything. He was grateful to God for what He had done for him and wanted to give back out of gratefulness. Our gifts are a true reflection of God's worth to us.

3. *David obeyed God with his finances*: We must be Spirit driven, listen and obey as God directs us. Just obey! 2 Cor 6:7. Have I asked God what He wants me to give?

New Testament Perspectives on Giving: Most people in life naturally fall into the category of either spenders or savers. However, both the saver and the spender have set their heart/trust on something other than God. We are called to place our hopes not on uncertain riches but on God (1 Timothy 6:17-19) and trust in Him for our future provision rather than our own savings. Money can easily replace God in our hearts, (Mt 6:28-29 and Luke 12:24) but God wants to replace money as our primary focus and driver. He is more beautiful and wonderful than anything we could ever buy.

Generosity is one of the greatest evidences of being a Jesus follower. The gospel frees us to let go of our stuff.

Questions to Consider:

1. What does how you use your money show what you delight in?
2. What does how you use your money show what you trust in?
3. What does how you use your money indicate about what kingdom you are building?
4. Do you regularly ask God what you are supposed to be giving and where/ to whom those gifts should go? What does that look like?