

## The Why Behind the What: Giving

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Why Behind the What**
- In this series we will endeavor to see the Why behind the What with spiritual disciplines. (that is, to awaken faith in spiritual disciplines!)
  - o Spiritual disciplines are the way to abundant life in Christ, so why do so many believers in Jesus have such trouble staying on track?
  - o Let's get past the "religious" Whys and find the real God things that are here!
- **Giving (today's What)**
- Today we cover what can be a touchy subject, Tithes and Offerings.
  - o Cain and Able, Judas, Ananias and Sapphira...
    - I'm not exactly sure why that is, but I think it is because most of us have an emotionally unhealthy relationship with money.
    - Re: identity, pride, resentment, greed, etc.
  - o **Matthew 6:19-24**
    - It's a heart issue.
    - Can't serve two masters, so quit trying.
  - o **Matthew 16:24-25**
    - Giving up your life to follow Christ involves submitting your financial life to Christ.
    - However, then your financial life gets better!
      - Not necessarily easier...but better.
        - o Break covetousness.
        - o See financial opportunity.
- Bad "whys" to give:
  - o Guilt and pressure.
    - Jesus is not short of cash!!
    - Watch out for poverty mentality.
  - o To try to get God to bail us out or to feed our greed.
    - If you tithe AND spend foolishly, you'll still have financial problems.
    - **1 Timothy 6:3-5** (v5, God sees through that plan anyway)
  - o To try to manipulate church leadership.
    - Designations are fine...to a point.
- God thing "whys" for tithes and offerings:
  - o 1) To honor God as your provider.
    - **Genesis 28:20-22**, Jacob's Vow.
  - o 2) To live a submitted and blessed financial life.
    - **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**
    - Offerings are a decision of the heart. Tithes are more of an expectation.
  - o 3) So the Church can be strong and do the Great Commission!
    - A church full of tithers is strong, a church full of tippers is weak.
    - God's economy: the giver is blessed and the church is strong!
- I've got two goals for you.
  - o 1) To help you submit your financial life to Christ.
    - That helps all of us.
  - o 2) To set some captives free. **1 Timothy 6:6**
    - Did you know you could have both? This is talking about financial contentment. Now. Right now.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!