



First Baptist Church of Cypress
THE TEACHING OF GIVING
Mark 12:35-44

Pastor Trevor Cooper
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Good morning church! As long as I have been a Christian, I can remember people arguing and debating about tithing. Some say it was only an Old Testament Law that doesn't need to be followed as believers under the New Covenant. And some say that tithing is just as relevant to New Testament Christians as it was in the Old Covenant.

Mark 12:35-37

And as Jesus taught in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? **36** David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet." **37** David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?" And the great throng heard him gladly.

Jesus was teaching at the temple in an area called the Women's court where the temple offering boxes were located and which gave access to all people coming to the temple. Jesus argues that while the Messiah is descended from David, his royal dignity and power surpasses David. Therefore, the Messiah could not have been David's son but one to come after him. Clear and faithful interpretation of Scripture is heard "gladly". I hope the same would be for today's message!

Mark 12:38-44

"And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces **39** and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, **40** who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." **41** And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. **42** And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. **43** And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. **44** For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

We also can learn from the clear interpretation of Scripture about giving in the book of Malachi – God is inviting people to test/try him in his commands about giving.

- The Lord of Hosts is WORTHY of our tithe and worship and we will be BLESSED due to His glorious name.

A type of giving we have at FBCC to support the church, is:

1. We Always Give a PORTION.

- Giving a portion is always PRACTICED in godly OBEDIENCE.

“10% of our tithe in the New Covenant is not the ceiling that we aspire to; it is the floor that we begin at.” – Mark Driscoll

- Giving 10% of our increase is the Biblical standard of BASELINE giving.

*“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”
Leviticus 26: 30*

- GIVING is a form of our WORSHIP.

The second type of giving at FBCC to support the church, is:

2. We Sometimes Give a SACRIFICE.

- Giving VOLUNTARILY is never according to obligation or command.

According to the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8, the churches were facing “deep” poverty which refers to the most severe type of economic deprivation, the kind that caused a person to become a beggar. But in their extreme poverty, they had an abundance of joy and a wealth of generosity for others.

1. Giving is SACRIFICIAL. (v 8:1-5)

They had to filter their money and make lifestyle adjustments.

2. Giving is a regular LIFESTYLE. (v 8:3, 12)

Paul spoke of a readiness and eagerness to give. Not just once, but regularly based on what a person has. This is appropriate portion of fairness no matter the circumstances!

3. Giving is done CHEERFULLY. (v 9:7-8)

They were glad to give to God first and He loves a heart who is thrilled with the pleasure of giving. We shouldn't give because we are pressured but because we want to please the Lord God.

Where is your Heart in Giving?? God desires our hearts and all that we are! God provided both the resources & the willingness to give. Giving was created by God to strengthen our relationship with Him. Giving may not mean anything to a nonbeliever, but it does to a believer's heart. If you have or want to give your Life to Christ, then pray to receive Jesus as Lord today and I want to pray with you and help you. If you have given your life already, I ask that you continue being obedient as God continues to be faithful.