

DOLLARS & SENSE – SEMINAR #2

1. SUNDAY RECAP: “Why Give Sacrificially?”

GOD’S ‘MONEY SUCCESS’ DEFINITION:

“When God owns my heart, I can own (control) my money”

The general alternative is

“Money owns (controls) my heart and therefore owns (controls) me”

“There is a cost to everything – what’s at stake is what we are willing to pay”

KEY #1: THE POINT IS NOT ‘THE RESPONSE’, BUT ‘THE RESPONDER’

KEY #2: GOD WON’T IGNORE SACRIFICIAL GIVING (out of love for Him) B/C IT’S A REFLECTION OF HIM!

KEY #3: OBEDIENCE IS OUR JOB – TIMING IS GOD’S

“27-36 To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst... No more payback. Live GENEROUSLY... If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? ... If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? ... If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? ... “I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it.”

Luke 6

2. PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING AS A SACRIFICIAL GIVER

- a. Don’t compare my current circumstance with someone else’s testimony
- b. Testimonies are the results of great tests
- c. Forced sacrifice is not sacrifice, it’s prison (borrower is servant to the lender)
- d. Giving sacrificially enables my trust in God to grow
 - We all want to see God ‘move’ on our behalf - we rarely want to be in a position where we need God to.
 - Sacrifice willingly puts me in need of God!

3. HOW TO PREPARE TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

- a. **Admit** any hesitancy: God can’t heal what we won’t reveal

- b. **Count the cost:** Identify what feels sacrificial to me?
 - What we typically identify as ‘can’t’ is where sacrifice usually begins.

- c. **Measure your heart:** How am I postured toward God?
 - God as Source? God is Good? God is Able? God is Provider?
 - What do I struggle with when I don’t think I have enough?
 - _____

- d. **Pre-decide:** I want to live sacrificially
 - “Pay now & play later or play now and pay later”
 - _____

- e. **Budget:** Make your ‘everyday’ less about ‘payday’
 - “Pay now & play later or play now and pay later”
 - _____

- f. Be on the **lookout:** We rarely see what we aren’t looking for
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