Jesus talks about money; we can too

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About Lori

- fundraising consultant
- speaker
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- poet
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- wife, mom
About Lori

• Blog and research posted at www.lgreesor.com
• B. Math (Statistics)
• Master of Theological Studies
• D. Min. at Tyndale University College and Seminary, 2014
Please type in your questions

- Moderator will read them out on your behalf. We’ll also take question breaks during the presentation and again at the end.
Our discussion points for today’s webinar

• Tithing
• Circle of Grace model of giving
• *Imago Dei* – what does it mean to be created in the image of God?
• Resources on Jesus and money, Christian giving
Tithing
What did Jesus say?
But first an OT reference

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Malachi 3:10
And some more from Malachi 3

- Offerings of righteousness
- Malachi 3:5

5 “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.
New Testament references to tithing

• Luke 18:12
• Hebrews 7:1-10
Question: What about tithing?

Answer: Tithing is the practice of giving 10% of one’s income for sacred purposes. The Old Testament writings include many commands to the people to present a tithe of their produce to the Lord.

In the New Testament, tithing is never commanded of God’s people. Jesus himself condemned tithing when it led to self-righteousness (c.f. Luke 18:9-14), Zaccheus gave more than half of his savings away after he had been touched by Jesus’ love (Luke 19:8), and the early Christians went far beyond tithing when they gave everything they owned to the church to be used for the common good (c.f. Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-25).
Question: What about tithing?

The New Testament writers do not lay down any laws about giving, but challenge us to learn to give with the same whole-hearted generosity that we see in Jesus.
Some observations on tithing

Great things about tithing

• It’s way more than most Christians give
• Makes a wonderful goal for people learning to give
• Makes an excellent baseline for mature givers
Risks of tithing

• Thinking we can do whatever we want with the other 90%

• Legalism – giving based on duty and obligation

Awkward things about tithing

• If you are already visiting a food bank in order to pay the rent, then living on 90% of your income isn’t a good option
What I hear in congregations about tithing

• people in church say ‘we tithe’ and actually mean – this conversation is done
• $20 a week is $1000/year
• If this is a tithe, then what is annual income?
A GIVING GUIDE

As Christians, we are encouraged to follow the spirit of the tithe and consider giving to God as an act of worship and thanksgiving. The foundation of generous giving is found in the Bible.

GIVE GRATITUDE
Giving grows out of the joyful recognition that all we have comes from God. It is a response to God’s grace.
(2 Chronicles 29:14; 2 Corinthians 8:3)

GIVE CHEERFULLY
Give, not until it hurts, but until it feels good. Giving is a joyful act.
(2 Corinthians 8:7)

GIVE FREELY
We give, not because we have to but because we want to.
(2 Corinthians 8:7)

GIVE INTENTIONALLY AND PROPORTIONALLY
We give a percentage of what we have according to what we have been given.
(2 Corinthians 8:12)

GIVE OFF THE TOP
As an expression of trust in God, we give off the top of our income instead of what is left.
(Proverbs 3:9)

GIVE REGULARLY
We grow in generosity when we develop the habit of regular giving.
(1 Corinthians 16:2)

God’s grace touches our hearts and lives—and those around us—as we grow into the image of the greatest giver of all.

The following giving chart shows weekly offerings as a percentage of income. This may help you decide what you want to give to the church as a proportion of your income.

WEEKLY PERCENTAGE GIVING GUIDE

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<th>Income</th>
<th>Weekly Giving</th>
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</table>

For those giving on a monthly basis—by Pre-Authorized Remittance or by post-dated cheques—simply multiply the weekly giving in this chart by 4.33 (there are 4.33 weeks in a month).

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7
416-444-1181 or 1-800-418-7301
presbyterian.ca
1803130701
Talk to your envelope steward
Please type in your questions

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Jesus talks about money; we can too!
Abundance of a Generous God

God’s Grace is Limitless
Circle of Grace Model

God

Praise and Thanksgiving

GRACE

Gracious Action

People

People
Zaccheus
Circle of Grace Model

God

Praise and Thanksgiving

People

Grace

Gracious Action

People
Matthew 18 – the unmerciful servant
Circle of Grace Model

God

Praise and Thanksgiving

GRACE

People

Gracious Action

People
Imago Dei
Give to God what is God’s
Circle of Grace Model

God

Praise and Thanksgiving

People

Gracious Action

GRACE

People
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Jesus and Money

Highlight is pp. 165-169 Ten Christian Myths about Money. Recommended by Craig Keener, another great teacher and author.

American context. A light read by theological standards but not by popular standards.
This is specifically about asking for money and I haven’t come across anything else quite like it. Great insights into Paul and money.

Bassler does not draw parallels into contemporary practice.
Money and Possessions

Brueggemann is a master. Extensive treatment of money in OT.


The exegetical gold standard and a dense read.
A Christian View of Money: Celebrating God’s Generosity

Fourth edition, updated. Accessible with examples, case studies and questions in each chapter – all set for a group study.

Available on Amazon for $23.30
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Contact us

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THANK YOU!