

Exodus
It's Really Not About the Money- Week #16
Small Group Notes
November 19 and 22

Main Point: God draws us out to draw us in by our perspective related to the use of our earthly resources in His eternal kingdom.

Introduction:

Have you ever felt awkward asking people for money to chip in on a gift or to help pay for something? Maybe if something needed to be replaced?

Have you ever said before in those situations, "It's not about the money, it's about the principle of the matter"? What does that statement mean? How can this statement relate to our giving to the Lord?

We are going to see today as we finish up the Exodus series that our giving is not an amount issue as it is a heart issue. The "principle" of giving relates to our generosity, obedience, and dependence upon the Lord.

To begin read Exodus 35: 4-6, 20-21.

Discuss: Each statement below is preceded by the following words, "It's not about the money but..."

1. It is about everyone growing in generosity.

Explain: The circumstances of the Israelites people were not to dictate when or how they gave. The account provides for us a time to see that God was revealing in their lives whether they truly desired to follow Him or not as they were to be "marked for their generosity."

Ask: What does it look like for someone to be "marked with generosity"?

What are ways we can carry that same attitude into the holidays?

2. It is about the question of ownership.

Stewardship: managing God's resources for God's glory.

- A manager doesn't feel guilty about his stuff, he feels responsible. (Read 1 Chronicles 29:11)

Explain: God owns everything anyway. He could have the angels descend from heaven to build the tabernacle with materials made from heaven. But He didn't do that. Why? Because giving is not a chore. It is a blessing. God gave the opportunity to give. And the question that is before us is if we are going to pass the test with how we use our money? Read Malachi 3:10.

Ask: ***How does it impact your perspective to begin to think like a steward versus an owner? Bring that into your personal relationship with Jesus, what does it mean that He owns your life (Read 1 Corinthians 7:22).***

What does it mean that you have the opportunity to join in with God's work with the stewardship of your finances?

3. It is about proper motivation.

- Read Exodus 35:21. True generosity flows from a heart that is thankful for the grace and mercy of God.
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. The question concerning your money is what motivates you to give.

Explain: God loves a cheerful giver, a willing giver. Giving should be a chore. It should be a burden. It should not be grudging and it should not be because we feel guilty. Our motivation should be one of a joyful response to God's many gifts to us. We should love to share from the grace that God has given to us.

Ask: ***Was their contribution mandatory or voluntary? Do you think God only wants gifts from the willing? What can be the wrong motivations to give? What does giving with grace look like?***

4. It is about my worldview.

- Read Matthew 16:26. My worldview helps me to see if I am living in the moment or living in light of eternity.

Ask: *One of the questions we ask ourselves at New Vision is “if we are leveraging our earthly resources for eternal transformation?” How can you invest in eternal transformation rather than in momentary things that go away?*

5. It is about faith, not fear.

- Read Colossians 1:16-17. Fear is a greater deterrent to stewardship than greed.
- Read Exodus 36:3-7. Giving is a change for my faith to intersect with God’s faithfulness.

Ask: *Why did they have the people stop bringing their freewill offerings for the construction of the temple? What impact was made overall? What would that look like today?*

What are reasons that people give out of fear today? How do these reasons present an incorrect view of our relationship with the Lord? How should love and faith impact our giving?