



Rock Creek Baptist Church
Nov 19, 2017

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I Surrender...Some: Matthew 19:16-30
Moving from "how little can I give God"
to "how little should I keep?"
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Story: trying to find a dollar for children's church (Point: trying to give the minimum)

Question: do you ever try and give the bare minimum to God?

We don't like to hear about requests for money. We are inundated with requests from TV commercials to give money to animals, scams, and even illegitimate requests that disguise themselves as Christian

There will be no guilt trips given this morning...

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

You might be pushing back now on the money talk, "Pastor you KNOW it's Cyber Monday and Black Friday next week, I know you're not going to get in the way of my 50% off flat screen! I give my 10% tithe and don't have to give a penny more!"

But does the Bible say "give 10% and not a penny more?"

Genesis 14:18-20

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Leviticus 27:30-32

“ ‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it. Every tithe of the herd and flock— every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the LORD.

Malachi 3:10

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.

Some have tried to weasel out of this by saying "the tithe talks about first FRUITS and first HERDS. Since I have neither fruit nor herds I don't have to tithe!" Seriously...this is an actual argument people have said...

The point is that in the Old Testament God commanded His people to give a 10th of everything. But there was a tithe (meaning 10th) for the Levites, the priests, and the needy. So if you're basing your idea of giving to God on the Old Testament tithe it's not 10%...all totaled it's more like 23.3%.

At this point you might say "Ugh...let's see what the New Testaments says about it then...I don't want to give 23.3% and Jesus said we don't live under the law so surely He asks much less of me right?"

First of all, Jesus never uses the word "tithe." But He does talk about sacrifice. What does He say?

Matthew 10:9-10

“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.

Luke 9:3-4

He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.

Luke 22:35

Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered.

Matthew 8:20

Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

David Platt paraphrases this to say "there isn't a Holiday Inn at the end of the road I'm on..there's a cross!"

Matthew 4:20

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 19:16-30

Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, " 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.' " "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

We might identify with the rich young ruler. Even our poorest poor are richer than most of the rest of the world.

If you have food in a fridge, clothes in a closet, sleep in a bed, with a roof over your head, you are very rich compared to much of the world

How would you respond to Jesus' call to abandon everything?

It is hard to let go of freedom and security that we associate with money.

Would you "travel light" like the disciples?

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

How much does God want? All of you.

Clip: "I Surrender Some"

This isn't just about your money, it's about anything you should be giving to God but aren't. Your time. Your talents.

Illustration: Spiral wishing wells

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

None of us own anything, we merely hold it for a while.

You may not be asked to surrender everything, but are you willing to ask God what He would ask of you, and are you willing to follow?

Do you want God to bless you "just a little" as you might seek to give Him just the minimum?

God surrendered all. Will you surrender all to Him or just a part of you?