

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of October 2016

Sacrificial Giving

(2 Corinthians 8:2-3; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9)

Sunday, October 2, 2016

The highest expression in Christian financial stewardship is sacrificial giving. To sacrifice is defined as “to surrender something prized or desirable for the sake of something having a higher or more pressing claim of Christ.” Sacrificial giving is the logical result of Christian discipleship as Paul described it in Romans 12:1. Sacrificial giving may appear to be a logical result of commitment to Christ, but it is a lost grace for most Christians. A recovery of sacrificial giving would supply abundant resources for Christ’s work. Sacrificial giving is tithing plus!

I. Sacrificial giving alters our lifestyle.

Two New Testament experiences provide examples of sacrifice that are worthy to imitate. One day Jesus watched the people place their offering in the Temple treasury. The wealthy gave large sums, probably in a very pretentious way. Finally, a poor widow silently placed her two small coins in the treasury. No one noticed her but Jesus, and He gave her the eternal honor of being the centerpiece of a lesson on sacrificial giving.

- A. The wealthy gave out of their abundance; she gave out of her poverty. The wealthy never missed making their gift. It really didn’t cost them anything. “She, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on” (Mark 12:44). Sacrificial giving affects our way of living.

Sunday, October 9, 2016

- B. Paul cited the Macedonian Churches as an example of sacrifice. The Macedonian resources had been drained by the Romans. They were in the midst of “the most severe trial and extreme poverty” (2 Corinthians 8:2). If anyone seemed to possess the rights to say, “I can’t afford to give,” it was the Macedonians. However, the love of Christ and the needs of others were greater than their personal needs. They continued

to do without; they waited for some things. The Christian Ministry had greater priority than convenience, pleasure, or prosperity. Believing God would provide, they sacrificed and gave.

Sunday, October 16, 2016

- C. We understand our ability and overstate our needs. “It is in trying to do what we cannot do that we do best what we can do – Sacrifice!” It isn’t sacrifice when we give out of abundance, passing on to the Lord unexpected bonuses. Sacrifice alters our lifestyle. Sacrifice costs!

Sunday, October 23, 2016

II. Sacrificial giving is the result of personal sacrifice.

- A. Sacrificial giving began with the personal sacrifice of Jesus. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sakes, he became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9). Our sacrifice flows from His sacrifice. Jesus provides the ultimate pattern. Complete selflessness motivated His gift. He surrendered all for our sakes. Realizing the depths of His love, can any Christian be satisfied selfishly holding on to anything?

Sunday, October 30, 2016

- B. The Macedonians understood: “They gave themselves first to the Lord” (v 5). Giving resources of money, time, and ability are of secondary consequence if one has first surrendered self to Christ. When Christ is truly Lord, things fall into the proper perspective and sacrificial giving results. No wonder the Macedonians gave with overflowing joy, and even beyond their ability” (vs. 2-3), they belonged to Christ. It is a privilege to offer possessions when Christ possesses the person.