

FAITH &  
FINANCE

MICAH  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# The Heart of Generosity

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# **Giving:** Why is it such a challenge for some?

- Trauma of upbringing
- Lack of accountability / transparency / Understanding
- Prosperity Ponzi Schemes
- Am I Giving it to God (or to the Pastor?)
- Financial Management



# Overview: Heart of Generosity

- What is Giving and Generosity from a Biblical perspective?
- God's blueprint for Giving in Scripture and what it means for us today.
- The Call to Generous Giving (*2Cor 8:1-5*)
- The Generosity Mindset (*1Chr29: 10-15*)



## Giving: **Micah Declaration:**

‘Committing our time, talents and **treasure** to building a vibrant, diverse and multigenerational church family that is continuously growing’



# What is giving Biblically?

- Giving is a spiritual **act of worship** that brings honour to God. (*Proverbs 3: 9-10*)
- Giving is a **freewill response** to God's prescribed order. (*2 Corinthians 9:7-8*)



# What does our giving say about us?

- **Cain & Able** (Genesis 4: 1-16) – Rejected Offering
- **Widow's mite** (Luke 21: 1-4) – Out of her poverty gave everything
- **Rich Young Ruler** (Matthew 19: 16-22) – where do we put our Faith and Trust?



# What is Generosity?

- Generosity is the *spiritual discipline* that underpins the way we should give.
- ‘*The quality of being plentiful or large*’
- Generosity is a matter of the heart



# Tithing - Old Testament

- Sacred Covenant between God and the Israelites
- Wasn't just a singular act of 10% but a *Multi-faceted* practice
- With the purpose of *honouring God* and servicing the needs of the community
- Serves as a blueprint for *righteousness, justice* and *faithful stewardship* (Psalm 89:14)





# Tithing - Old Testament

- Levitical Tithe\* (10%) (*Numbers: 18:21-24*)
- Festival Tithe (10%) (*Deut: 14:22-27*)
- Poor Tithe\*\* (10%) (*Deut 14:28-29*)

*\*Also includes the tithe of tithe (Numbers: 18:26-32)*

*\*\*at the end of the third year in a 7-year cycle*



# Tithing - The Levitical Tithe

- **WHAT:** A tenth of all their agricultural produce to be paid to the Levites
- **WHY:** The Levites were specifically 'set apart' to assist the Priests in carrying out sacred duties in the Tabernacle
- **WHO:** The other 11 tribes of Israel were instructed by God to set aside this tithe
- **PRINCIPLE:** Honouring those who labour in God's House and acknowledging the sacredness of their tasks to God



# Tithing - The Festival Tithe

- **WHAT:** A tenth of all their crops harvested each year
- **WHY:** To Feast in God's presence with their households in joyous celebration
- **WHO:** The other 11 tribes of Israel were instructed by God to set aside this tithe
- **PRINCIPLE:** To acknowledge God as the source of their blessings in all reverence; feasting and fellowshiping together



# Tithing - The Poor Tithe

- **WHAT:** A tenth of all their agricultural produce to be gathered in a central storehouse every 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year
- **WHY:** To care for the widows, orphans, foreigners & Levites who would not have benefitted from the Harvest
- **WHO:** The other 11 tribes of Israel were instructed by God to set aside this tithe
- **PRINCIPLE:** To promote God's heart for righteousness, justice and compassion for all mankind



# Tithing - Old Testament

*Did they always keep the Covenant?*

***NOPE!***



# Tithing - Old Testament

*So, what changed?*

*(Matthew 5:17)*



# Tithing - **New** Testament

- Jesus became the perfect embodiment of the Law
- Therefore, sin was perfectly atoned for
- **No longer the requirement to tithe specific amounts under the Law**
- But the spirit of the Law still applies in *principle* and *purpose*



# Tithing - **New** Testament Principles

- Honouring those who labour in God's House
- Acknowledging God as the source of our blessings in all reverence
- Promoting God's heart for righteousness, justice and compassion for all mankind





# Tithing - **New** Testament

I've ***got*** to give under the ***Law***

I ***get*** to give under ***Grace***



# Tithing - **New** Testament

Giving for the church now is based  
on ***sacrificial, freewill offerings***  
***given generously.***



# The Call to Generosity (2Cor 8:1-5)

- Their first action was to *give themselves to the Lord*
- They were being *tested* with *many troubles*, and *were very poor*
- But they were filled with *abundant joy*, which *overflowed in rich generosity*
- They gave far more... and did it of their *own free will*
- They begged us for the *privilege of sharing in the gift* for the believers in Jerusalem




# The Heart of Generosity (1 Chr 29:10-15)

- **Worship** - Acknowledgement of just who He is in worship and adoration
- **Everything I have belongs to God** (Verse 12); and I am simply a steward of my possessions (Deut 8:18)
- **The Privilege** of giving to God (Verse 14)
- My giving should be **sacrificial**, (2 Samuel 24:24)
- **Life on this earth is temporary**; I will treasure what I value most (Matt 6:21)



# Giving & Generosity

What does your giving say about  
*you*?



‘Committing our time, talents and treasure to building a vibrant, diverse and multigenerational church family that is continuously growing’

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Micah Community Church Declaration