

Giving to God

This morning we observed the ordinance of the Lord's Table. This practice of sharing bread and wine that Jesus gave His disciples by saying "...do this in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19-20, was showing His disciples that He was going to give His body and His blood, to seal this new covenant.

He gave them all that He had; laying down His own safety; His comfort and the ultimate prize of His very life for these men that He knew were going to abandon Him at His greatest hour of need. He gave us His all so that we could enter in to the all of His promises.

We also sang the Hymn this morning titled: "Trust and Obey"

Verse 2

For we never can prove, the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay
For the favor He shows, and the joy He bestows
Are for those who will trust and obey

This verse points out that we can't experience [or prove] all the delights or joy His love has for us until we lay our all on His altar of worship to Him. We also have been singing "We Bring The Sacrifice Of Praise" into the house of the Lord. This song says that praise is a sacrifice. We don't sing things songs because they have a nice tune and sound good or feel good to sing. At this church songs are part of the message. We need to mean what we sing, not just sing it!

These facts are there to point to one thing; **our all must be given for His all**. The idea that anything would be held back puts us in Acts 5 and the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphira.

Read: Acts 5 When this couple held back part of the money they got for a piece of land they were fully within their rights. They could do whatever they wanted with their own things. But in this case it was represented by them that they were giving their all on the sale of this land. **That was the lie!** They had hidden in their hearts deception, greed and fear. The Holy Spirit wasn't in them! It was their heart that was wrong! The Lord looks at the heart! He wants your heart!

Giving to God

So as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 ⁶ *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* ⁷ *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.* ⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work.*

This is another place that says we will have all we need and more if we will just trust the Lord and obey His commands!

I believe the Lord is calling us as a church to move into our own space. I have given my all to investigate and negotiate. Out of the blue, the Lord has even given me a fresh start with a large well known company MetLife that requires I have an office and will help pay for it and even allow the office to be in a church! Can you see God in that? And there are so many other things that converge at this time that make this an amazing opportunity that I believe God is in.

But I believe the Lord wants us to be responsible and not jump into something that we have not counted the cost of. Jesus questioning His followers Luke 14:28 ²⁸ *For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it—*

We must see that the congregation wants to move in this direction! We will be tracking the weekly tithes and offerings over the next ten weeks to see if our income is the \$100 more per week that we need before making any final decision but today we will make an initial decision. That will be done at the end of service.

What we give to God is to be given with an eye towards who He is, our provider! We are to give all of our hearts, all of our souls all of our minds. We are to hold back nothing because whatever we hold back we are saying that we are smarter than God in that particular area. That just simply isn't possible. No one is smarter than God! And we are to always give Him thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Giving to God

At God's House On The Hill we are seeking to be biblical Christians that have Jesus Christ as our role model and do our best to live lives that show that, and while we're at it grow our capacity to love God and others the way Jesus did and does and that should keep our minds on Him so much that we tell others about Him and introduce them to Him; the way I put it is, "Living like Jesus, loving like Jesus, lighting the way."

There are so many things we can do as a church if we have a space available all the time. I won't list them because I don't want to appear to be selling you this space. I've asked you to pray and ask the Lord to direct you as to whether this is to become a reality and I need to leave it with you.

This morning I will ask you to vote by secret ballot. I ask all adults to take a ballot and indicate whether you are a member, that means you have gone through membership class and been introduced to the congregation as a member, or if you are an associate, that could be some one who is an ongoing member of this church and expect to continue in that, perhaps even considering membership, but this is your church. Visitors are welcomed to vote but only as a courtesy. We will count the ballots after we vote and announce the results.

What you'll be asked to vote for or against is whether we should tell the landlord we are willing to see if we can raise the money over the next twelve weeks. The money is an extra \$100 a week. That's simply \$400 a month.

$\$800 \text{ rent} + \$150 \text{ (ave.) electric} = \$950 - \$300 \text{ (my office)} = \$650 - \$250 \text{ (current rent)} = \400

I negotiated with the landlord, Bruce Lamb of Springvale Hardware, this week and he has agreed that we could enter a three year lease that would go from \$800 the first year to \$900 the second year to \$1,000 the third year. The first year would have one month free that he would like to be December but I think that may be too soon I would only give us 8 weeks to count and I would like to count 12. If this is God's will He'll bring it to pass and grow us in the process.