



Footprints of Generosity

TALKING ABOUT MONEY

How much time does your congregation spend talking about money? Some would immediately shout out that their church spends far too much time talking about money.

How often does your pastor preach about money? One Sunday? Two Sundays? Is it just an annual "Sermon on the Amount?"

When you stop and think about how much of our lives revolve around money and how dependent we are on money and how important money is to us, we probably should be spending many more Sundays engaged with preaching, teaching and discussing money.

When you consider how often Jesus spoke about money, it is clear that it was a priority for him.

I challenge you to take one week during the next month and to pray over every penny you have to spend. Ask the question of how God would have you use these pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, and so on. And as we pay the bills and make purchases, may we dedicate everything to God's purposes.

In doing so we may find that God has other plans for the dollars we thought we might use for buying that new shirt. We may discover other uses for those dollars we might use to purchase soft drinks, coffee or snacks.

We might learn a lot in that one week about our relationship with God as well as our relationship with money.

It has been said that a checkbook is a spiritual report card. It reflects our priorities better than any other document. What grade would your checkbook receive?

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

2 Cor 8:12

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

by a Proud Father

For the last few weeks, we have been receiving advertisements for back-to-school specials. Stores have all the equipment students need to be successful students: the "cool trends" and "hottest fashions" for this year's student. My 15-year-old daughter is always highly aware of what she needs to return to high school and maintain her status as a *fashionista*. Usually, I dread the final bill following a back-to-school shopping excursion.

This year is different. My daughter attended the *Creation Festival* in Mt. Union, PA, in June. *Creation* is one of the largest Christian gatherings on the east coast, a five-day event bringing together nationally renowned Christian recording artists and speakers. At *Creation*, my daughter decided to sponsor a child through Compassion International for \$40.00 per month. She called me before signing up, and I explained that she would need to do household chores and cut back on spending to come up with the monthly contribution. This would be her mission, not her mother's or mine. She agreed. My daughter wanted to give sacrificially to help a little girl in need. She made a decision to follow Jesus, and do without some of the back-to-school fashion "necessities."

Jesus calls each of us to let go of the prevailing messages of our culture and become generous disciples. I am proud of my daughter as she begins to take seriously what it means to follow Jesus.

During this time of back-to-school specials, there will many opportunities to consider how we could use our old gear or do without to help others in need, living as generous disciples and faithfully following Jesus.

***Nurturing generous disciples
to serve as the
hands and feet of Christ***

© Mission Resource Development ABCUSA
This resource is provided to you as a ministry of the
Office of the General Secretary because American Baptists
are *united in mission* through United Mission.
THANK YOU for your gifts to United Mission!
www.generousdisciples.org

