



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: Making Change: Week 3, March 1, 2020

Recap:

- With the Israelites, God continues to try to push them to live outward focused lives, but they continued over and over again to only see themselves. Rather than bless the world with the resources God had so graciously given them, rather than see themselves for the vision God had given their lives, they lost focus and focused on themselves
- At first, it feels good to go out on your own, to do whatever you want, to be self-centered, but people rarely say, "I sure wish I had lived a more self-centered life," but many say they regret that kind of life.
- The Israelites gave 10% of whatever they first produced or earned and kept the remaining 90%. They knew it all belonged to God, but the idea was that the principle was the guardrail to keep them from losing focus and sight on what God wanted for their lives. Rather than face the curse of me-first living, tithing was guiding them toward the blessing of God-first living. Tithing is a guardrail on the road to the destination, it isn't the destination.
- The life of faith is a journey. Learning to love and trust God, living a God-first life, leads us toward experiencing the blessing of sharing God's love with the world around us. When we pour our lives into God, God pours us out into the world.
- You have been saved, rescued and redeemed. Jesus has given you new life and new purpose. He has saved you from something, for something, and to something. He came so that you could grasp onto eternal life and share that reality and love of God with the world.

Discuss:

1. Do you consider yourself financially blessed? If so, explain.
2. Read Malachi 3:8-10
3. Why do you think the Israelites didn't give their tithes and offerings?
4. How does living for yourself become a curse?
5. Read Mark 12:28-32
6. How would you explain to someone why love is more important than offerings and sacrifices?
7. How does a spirit of loving God carry over to loving one's neighbor?
8. Read John 3:16-17
9. How would you explain to someone how giving is a major part of following Jesus?
10. What are some ways that you see our church loving others and bringing life to the community?
11. What are some ways that you can extend your giving behind financial giving?
12. What is some help that you need in living God-first? How can you help others live God-first?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Readings about Living God-First

- Proverbs 3:1-12 Luke 20:19-26 Colossians 3:1-4