

“How to Give”

Message 2 in the series, “Money Talks”

2 Kings 4:1-7

TODAY'S MAIN IDEA:

Generosity doesn't happen by _____.

Reminders:

- Money **TALKS**. Generosity **WALKS**.
- **A “walking definition” of Generosity:** Leveraging your time, talents and treasures for the KINGDOM OF GOD and the benefit of OTHERS.

Why Do I Give through God's Church here at St. Paul's?

1. I believe God _____ what we do to _____ Him.
2. I believe in today's _____.
3. I believe in _____ tomorrow's _____ today.

How to Give?

1. Be _____
2. Be _____
3. Be _____

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NRSV)

Now the wife of a member of the company of prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves.” ² Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, **what do you have in the house?**” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house, **except a jar of oil.**” ³ He said, “Go outside, **borrow vessels** from all your neighbors, **empty** vessels and **not just a few.** ⁴ Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and **start pouring into all these vessels;** when each is full, set it aside.” ⁵ So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. ⁶ When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There are no more.” **Then** the oil stopped flowing. ⁷ She came and told the man of God, and he said, “**Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest.**”

APPLYING GOD'S WORD TODAY

I challenge each of us to fill out the Stewardship materials that you received in the mail and next week, bring in the “I Pledge” card as an act of faith, an act of worship, and an act of mentoring for the next generation.

FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. In your opinion, what are some of the biggest “stumbling blocks” for people when it comes to “tithing” (giving 10% of their income) or generosity (an offering that is in proportion to how God has blessed them)?
2. How do you define what it means to be “blessed”? What of your life would you like to see multiplied in the lives of others?
3. How do you react to the following quote from modern missionary, Jim Elliot: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” How has this been true in your life?
4. Read Malachi 3:1-10 and Proverbs 11:24-25 (especially using the Message translation). What phrases or words or concepts stand out for you? How do you react to what the passages say?
5. As you've listened to the message or as you read the Scripture passages, what is God bringing to your mind and heart? What do you want to do about it?