

Magnanimous Living Pt2

(Ideas taken from a sermon series by Bill Johnson, Prosperity with a Purpose, and Craig Groeschel, Jesus and We)

Magnanimous- to be very generous/forgiving

Review (big-hearted, benevolent, unselfish)

Started with- Great Commission ...

Matt 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

God has called/commissioned to impact people’s lives in a way that changes- course of history.

We looked at Lk 16- Jesus makes a link between unrighteous wealth and true riches.

God is calling us to be faithful in the natural so we can impact the eternal.

We looked at ...

Pr10:22 It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.

When blessing comes as a result of us pursuing the Lordship of Jesus Christ- no sorrow.

When blessing comes as the result of us pursuing money- it will cost- there is a price to pay.

Look at the rich- multiple marriages, addictions ... they pursued one thing and got another.

Looked at ...

Mat 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Blessing and increase are the result of correct priorities- pursuing Kingdom values first.

Looked at 2 Cor 9.6-11 ... God provides seed for bread and seed to sow.

Seed for bread- given to take care of our needs.

Seed to sow is to build towards a future harvest
for our needs/to bless others/change nations.
We saw how our giving produces thanksgiving
towards God in- hearts- those to whom- give.

**God's favor is not for self-promotion, but
so we can benefit and bless others.**

Magnanimous Living Pt2

I believe God wants to prosper us ...

**3 Jn 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects
you may prosper and be in good health,
just as your soul prospers.**

Erroneous teaching about prosperity-unbiblical to-
>view financial prosperity as a mark of
spirituality

>embrace poverty as a way of life for a
Christian (not- mark of spiritual maturity)

Takes resources to disciple the nations (Chris S)

Prosperity has to do w/issues of- heart- emotional
and mental health, inner world filled w/life- God

**I have never been poor, but I have been
broke- poor is an inner heart issue.**

Start with an OT scripture about the tithe.

There is debate in- church- as to whether the tithe
is part of the Law- therefore not a NT principle.

Malachi 3:8–11 (NASB95)

**8“Will a man rob God? Yet you are
robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we
robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.**

**9“You are cursed with a curse, for you
are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!**

**10“Bring the whole tithe into the
storehouse, so that there may be food in
My house, and test Me now in this,” says**

the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

11“Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the Lord of hosts.

v10- we see a link between the natural/spiritual. Malachi links natural obedience, or tithe/offerings- with opening of the windows of heaven.

Open heavens has to do with the realm of God’s rule, the out pouring of God’s Spirit upon men- it will include salvation, health, provision.

Tithe and Offerings

v8- tithe- 10%, offerings are given above the tithe.

The tithe was instituted by Abraham some 400 years before the Mosaic Law.

Story of Abraham and Melchizedek ...

Genesis 14:18-20 (NASB95)

18And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

19He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.

Hebrews- Melchizedek has no genealogy- type of Christ- pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.

Abram gave a tithe- Melchizedek as- expression of his submission to the Lordship of God.

Abram tithed to Melchizedek 400 years before
Moses and the Mosaic Law.

Abraham is referred to as the father of our faith ...

**Rom 4:3 ...“Abraham believed God, and
it was credited to him as righteousness.”**

In Rom 4.11 it says that Abraham is the father of
all who believe in God through faith.

**Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ,
then you are Abraham’s descendants,
heirs according to promise.**

If you are born again you are a descendant of
Abraham by faith.

**Rom 9:8 That is, it is not the children of
the flesh who are children of God, but
the children of the promise are regarded
as descendants.**

Abraham had a son Isaac- son of promise/faith ...

Abraham believed God that he would have
a son- Sara barren, both of them too old.

Isaac- picture of those born-again through faith.

We are descendants of Abraham/Isaac and it was
Abraham who gave a tithe to Melchizedek.

Tithe carried on by Isaac’s son Jacob (dream) ...

**Gen 28:22 “This stone, which I have set
up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of
all that You give me I will surely give a
tenth to You.”**

Abraham/Isaac/Jacob- gave a tithe to God.

400 years later Moses affirmed- tithe in- Law ...

but Abraham introduced- concept of the tithe.

**Mal 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the
storehouse, so that there may be food in
My house, and test Me now in this,” says**

the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

The tithe belongs to God- and the NT equivalent of the storehouse is the church.

The tithe is not mine to keep- belongs to the Lord. The tithe goes to the local church and offerings above the tithe are given as your heart leads.

You would not eat at one restaurant and pay your bill at another restaurant. Bill Johnson

We looked at Lk 16.10-11, look at v12 ...

Lk 16:12 “And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”

If you cannot handle what belongs to another (tithe)- who will trust you with what is your own I do not want only seed- bread, I want seed- sow.

Matthew 22:17–21 (NASB95)

17“Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”

18But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?

19“Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius.

20And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?”

21They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”

The subject is money- part of what we have ...

>is not ours- belongs to Caesar

>is not ours- belongs to God

The tithe is not a gift, it is the acknowledgment of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Quote ...

**So you tithe, big deal, all that means is that you are not robbing God. Jack Taylor
Israel and the Wilderness**

Israel in the wilderness had to trust God entirely for provision- food (manna), warmth, clothes. All- miracles in- wilderness were to sustain them.

When they crossed into the Promised Land-

>manna stopped, clothes wore out, etc.

>God said I will bless- labor of your hands.

Now called to partner w/God and He would bless them as they pursued His Kingdom.

God's heart for Israel was not for them to remain in the wilderness ...

>where they had nothing and

>God provided everything.

The wilderness was a preparation for the Promised Land where they would ...

>labor and exercise faith, and

>God would bless.

They were now in a divine partnership w/God to advance His Kingdom on earth as in heaven.

We may go through wilderness times where we are totally dependent on God provision.

Those times of want are to prepare us so we can handle blessing and use for His Kingdom.

Supernatural provision is not the ultimate goal of the Christian life.

God wants to bring us into a partnership w/Him where He can work through us to bless others.

Conclusion

When we build our life on the Lordship of Jesus Christ- whether ...

>rich person called to Wall Street, or

>persecuted believer in Afghanistan facing death because of their faith

... what we build has no sorrow.

Any life built on- Lordship of Christ- no matter where you are called/circumstances-will stand.

That person will prosper- an issue of the heart.

Most of us- not facing death because of our faith-

so we can build Kingdom values into our families, jobs, businesses-

to advance KofG/bless- nations.

I can take unrighteous wealth, bring it into the Kingdom/use it to change the course of history.

Jn 8:39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

Those who are from Abraham should live as Abraham lived.

He lived according to core values of faith/trust in God- core value of trust- expressed in- tithe.

Many come to church for what- can get out of it instead of what they- give. (consumers/contributors)

Being a part of a church should cost something- just like being part of a family cost something.

I believe- church is called to Magnanimous Living.