

Discipleship invites us to learn to trust & obey all that God has commanded (Matthew 28:18-20)

Rooted series: learning and living in trust and obedience with resource – in all seasons

Last Week: Provision. Acknowledgement-Amount-Heart

This Week: Benevolence from Belief. We are called to trust and obey God with His plan for our provisions.

## **BELIEF: WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT PROVISION WILL DETERMINE WHAT YOU DO TO GET IT AND WHAT YOU DO WITH IT**

**Provider - Process – Purpose – Proof**

**Provider:** When I believe that all I have and will have comes from the provision of God then I can entrust all I have and all I will have to the purposes of God.

**Romans 11:35-36 (NIV)** - 35“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” 36For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

- Everything comes **from** God – he created everything, we are stewards of it
- Everything comes to you **through** God – your abilities, timing, the resources of others
- Everything is to be **for** God – do you use what you have for God or yourself?

**Process:** How do I get and feel about provision? Do I trust in God or trust in money? What I trust, I will serve.

**1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)** - 6But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- Content or Discontent?
  - Devotion to God and his ways (identity in Him, relationships, loving others) is enough.
  - Devotion to getting and having Money and Materials will never be enough
- We cannot be devoted to both (Matthew 6:19-24)
- Trusting in God for provision means trusting in his means to acquire it (Proverbs 21:25-26)
  - We have a part: **work and help** (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

**Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

## **BENEVOLENCE: TRUSTING GOD FOR PROVISION MEANS ENTRUSTING GOD WITH PROVISION**

**Purpose:** Is the purpose of my provision to serve me or to serve God and others? We are called to be benevolent with others as God is benevolent with us. Our belief should lead to benevolence.

**Proof:** What is the proof of my belief? What do my actions say about my belief?

- We are to be generous and willing to share (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- We are to be mindful and give to the poor and oppressed (Leviticus 19:9-10)
- We are to give in accordance with our income –
  - The tithe – 10% - a place to start (Leviticus 27:30, 1 Cor 16:1-2, Malachi 3:6-12, Matt 23:23)
  - From God - through us – for others
    - Fields, Temple, Apostles, Church
- We are to give generously in abundance with thanksgiving to God on all occasions (2 Cor 9:5-11)
- We are to see and meet needs accordingly (Acts 2:42-47)
- We are to give humbly and not for recognition (Matthew 6:1-4)
- When we give to others they praise God (2 Cor 9:5-11)

**2 Corinthians 9:5-11 (NIV)** - 6Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” 10Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**For Small Group Discussion:**

**Opening Question:** Is there such a thing as a “selfless” good deed?

**Main Point:** Biblical stewardship involves *sacrifice*. Lots of people like to be generous, but they want to do it their own way, not in the way God wants them to be. Generosity outside of God’s parameters is not obedience according to scripture.

**Main Scripture:** Malachi 3:6-12

**Head Questions**

- What is a tithe and what is an offering? What is the difference?
- Why is it important to be generous in the way God prescribes (vs. our own ideas of generosity)? How do we see this play out in the scripture above?

**Heart Questions**

- How does giving tithes and offerings (actions/obedience) change someone’s heart?
- What have you had to sacrifice in order to be obedient to God? What did God show you through that sacrifice?

**Hands Questions**

- What does sacrifice look like for you now in this season? How can that help you prepare for potential storms?
- Do you have a next step in the area of finances? If so, what is it? (Budgeting, conversation with spouse, stepping out in faith, etc.)

**Additional Scripture:** 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Deuteronomy 8:1-11, Psalm 1