**True Riches - Part 4**

**"From Indifference to Love"**

**November 28th, 2021**

**Intro:**

**- Wow! What a series this has been!**

 **- Sarah & I are so proud of you!**

 **- 140 Families took the step to Begin Tithing last week!**

 **- \_\_\_\_ - Continue tithing!**

 **- Think of what that means for the families of our church!**

**- Practically: What to do next - Set up Automated / Online Giving!**

 **- www.NLC.com/give**

**- Let me recap where we've been & what God is up to in our Finances:**

 **1) It all belongs to Him!**

 **2) How we steward it matters!**

 **3) The Tithe is the Starting & Protecting Point!**

 **4) One Final piece: The Sweet Spot is Living a Life of Ongoing, Strategic Generosity!**

 **- Let's talk about that for a few minutes today...**

**PRAY**

**1. Everybody has a Thing.**

 **A. IOW, our Human Nature causes us to care about what we care about & to not care about what we don't care about!**

 **- Said another way: Everybody's got a "THING!"**

 **- ? What's your THING???**

 **B. GARDENING / GUNS / GRANOLA / GAMES /**

 **- $100's on flowers / tools / bulbs / soil nutrients**

 **- $100's on ammo / oils & rags / targets / gun range memberships**

 **- $100's on Health food / cooking supplies / oils / seeds / nuts**

 **- $100's on Video Games / Sporting Events / Tickets / Parking**

 **- There are literally an endless amount of "Things" we all care about & willingly spend money on!!!**

 **- EVERYBODY has a THING!**

 **C. When our thing is our thing, then we think that the amount we spend is appropriate for our thing!**

 **- But, when someone else's thing is NOT our thing, we think spending money on it is a waste or foolish or silly!**

 ***- ? Have you ever said, "They spent $500 on a blender / coffee maker / power tool / fancy vase / new purse / pair of shoes???***

 **D. As Humans - We all have a Thing!**

**2. God has a Thing too.**

**John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

 **- For God SO LOVED... gardening / guns / granola / games???**

 **- "For God SO LOVED... the world."**

 **A. According to the Bible, WE are God's Thing that He cares about Most!**

**I John 4:9 "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."**

**Ephesians 2:4-5 "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved."**

**Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

 **B. Specifically, there are 3 Things that God cares about Most:**

 **1) The Lost. (Evangelism)**

**Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

**Luke 15:4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"**

 **2) The Poor & Needy.**

**Proverbs 14:21 "It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy."**

**Provers 21:13 "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered."**

**Proverbs 29:7 "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."**

**Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"**

**Luke 14:12-14 "Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"**

**I John 3:17-18 "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."**

 **3) The Church. (The Bride)**

**Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

 **C. The 1st Half is Evangelism / The 2nd half is Discipleship.**

 **- God wants His people to be like Him so we can be a light into a dark world!!!**

**Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

**3. God wants His "Thing" to be our "Thing."**

 **A. There's nothing wrong with Gardens / Guns / Granola or Games, but when you & I come into relationship with Jesus, the Bible makes it clear that God wants what He cares Most about to be what we care Most about!!!**

**I John 4:11-12 "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."**

**Matthew 6:33 (ESV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."**

 **B. DAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ILL?**

 **- If the dad is working in the garage, the child wants to as well, not b/c they know anything about cars, but b/c they want to be close to their dad!!!**

 **C. SARAH & I - Have done this for 25 years!**

 **- Last 5 years - Given away 33% of our income!**

 **- 10% tithe / then KBers after that!!!**

**4. When we make His "Thing" our "Thing" it has Eternal Ramifications.**

 **A. Unlike Gardens / Guns / Granola or Games, when we get involved in what our Father is involved in, the Bible makes it clear that we are storing up for ourselves treasures in Heaven that will last forever!!!**

**I Timothy 6:17-18 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

**v. 18-19 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."**

**Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."**

 **- IOW, God won't forget & He "owes us one" on the other side of eternity**

 **B. God created a system where we could take Earthly, Temporary Resources NOW, & invest them in such a way that they will Yield Rewards for us for ETERNITY!!!**

 **- What?!?**

**Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."**

**v. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

**How? (Practical Again...)**

**\*\* This is why we have created Kingdom Builders as a Church!**

 **- We realized that we could accomplish So Much More TOGETHER than any of us ever could accomplish alone!!!**

 **- Rather than all of us having to try & go out there & find ministries who are making a difference in Evangelism, the poor & discipleship, we said, "Let US find them & then together we can fuel them & fund them & make a bigger impact together!"**

**- Talk through what we do: People / Places / Partnerships**

 **- A21 - Illuminations - Bible Colleges - Compassion**

 **- Downtown Location - Student Conference - NLRN**

**- TIM S. QUOTE: "I love investing in KBers b/c it allows me to make a difference in ministries I wouldn't know anything about otherwise!"**

**- Let me bring the whole series together... The Goal for All of us:**

**1. Acknowledge He owns it all.**

**2. Live w/in our Means.**

**3. Tithe. (Build the Local Church / Discipleship)**

**4. Give Monthly above & beyond to KBers to be a part of "His Thing!!!"**

**- On your way out today... Brochure**

**- HFTH Offering - December 12th**

 **- One time & Begin to give monthly moving forward!**

**- Everybody's got a thing, when we make His thing, our thing, We have found the secret to True Riches!!!**

**PRAY**