

Devotion 3 “God Owns Everything”

Scripture Reading Philippians 4:10-20

In this passage, Paul is rejoicing because the Philippian Church is not only concerned over Paul, but they're actively engaged in trying to meet his needs.

Now we might be tempted to think Paul needed help with his car payment or cell phone bill. We know this isn't the case because cars and cell phones didn't exist, and Paul tells us how the financial support from the Philippian Church was to be used. Paul was planting churches, equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, and making disciples. He was preaching the Gospel all through out the region. He was not ashamed to ask for and receive these funds because they went toward fulfilling the Mission of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples.

Paul says this generous gift was a fragrant offering to God and as the Philippian Church gave to the Gospel Mission they would have their needs met by God.

God gave the Philippian Church the resources to share and the willingness to share the resources. May we treat our resources as what they truly are, a gift from God to be used for His glory and Kingdom.

Object Lesson:

Supplies Needed:

Different sized jars, cups, and bowls

Pennies

Colored Tape

Lesson:

Set up the jars, cups, and bowls on the floor with some close to each other and some spread out more. Mark several lines with the tape in front of the jars. Make the first line right in front of them, the next line a few feet back, the next line further back, etc. with the final line far away from the jars.

Everyone gets five pennies. Explain that the goal is to get the pennies into the jars. For each penny they land in a jar, they get two more pennies. If they don't make it in the jar, they get nothing. Everyone lines up behind the first line and let everyone toss a penny. If you make it into a jar, you get two more pennies. The ones who don't are down one penny.

Once everyone has gone, have them move to the next line and repeat this. Again, give the winners two more pennies. Continue going through all the taped off lines. Once you runs out of pennies, you're out. Last one to still have any pennies wins. (little competition isn't bad)

Questions/Discussion:

Was that game harder than you thought it was going to be?

Do you think you would have had a better chance of winning if you had stayed at the first line the whole time?

Did it make it harder to win since the only way to get more pennies was to give up the ones you already had?

That was a pretty interesting game, right? To win, you had to get more pennies than anyone else. But in order to get more, you had to give up the ones you already had. That made it difficult, right?

That's kind of how it is in life, isn't it? God gives us things—money, talents, time—and we have the choice of what to do with those things. We can have an attitude that says it's all about us, and we can choose to hold tightly to everything we have, making sure we never give anything away.

Or, we can choose to have a giving heart.

Which one do you think will work out better for us in the end?