

PENTECOST 13

STEWARDSHIP STORY #2 – ONE DOLLAR BILL VS 100 DOLLAR BILL

MATTHEW 13:46

AUGUST 30, 2020

This is my second story in a series on Stewardship Stories with a moral and questions.

We listen in as a one dollar bill and a 100 dollar bill tell each other their life stories. The one dollar bill explains that she is completely exhausted. All she has ever done is gone from church offering plate to church offering plate. She states that certainly she has a lot of one dollar friends who have been fellow travelers but they all are now smudged and worn. The one dollar bill turns to the hundred dollar bill and asks about his life. The hundred bill looks confused and asks the one dollar bill “What’s a church?”

What’s your moral of the story? I will give you mine:

1. Keep battling the almighty dollar. Most young adults spend 105% of their income. That is a losing battle. There is no extra income for anything. Even the elderly are still battling the dollar. My advice: keep battling.
2. We get stuck on amounts. Post World War II church people struggle to give a dollar a week to the church. When their income increased by 100 times in fifty years, they still gave their 1950 amount. Are you stuck with a specific amount? Is it time to make a change?
3. Have you ever experimented in your giving? Go from the one dollar a week category to \$10 a week or \$20 a week or \$100 a week for your chosen period of time. What happens to you? What happens to your soul?
4. If you were to make significant increases, what would happen to your budget? Would you have to make choices in your buying habits? Is there any possibility for you to make significant increases to your church? How?
5. When you give, what happens to your spirit? Do you feel good? Do you feel useful? What happens to your prayer life?
6. Jesus reminds us of the pearl of great price, Matthew 13:46. The merchant in the story, later in his life, determines what is of the greatest value in his life? It was the pearl.
7. What are the pearls of your life? Certainly family and friends are. Is the church a pearl? Is the Gospel a pearl? Are they big pearls? Are they tiny pearls? Why do you think Jesus makes us think of the pearl of great price?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us to think of the pearls of our life. What value do we give them? What value is the church and the Gospel to each of us? Amen.