



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

December 2, 2012

Faith & Finances

desert breeze community church

Acts 4:29-37 “**Money Power**”

A postcard of the Grand Canyon is nothing compared to standing on its edge entranced by Beauty & Glory. Entranced by God's beauty & glory in Worship is not only the best mood-altering drug but nothing will make you a more radically generous person.

What is a God Encounter?

- It will bring a whole lot of shaking. V31b; Ex19-20
- Is a whole person experience. V31c; Rom8:15-16
- Is a balance between head & heart. Vv31, 33 John 4:23-24

How does it Impact My Finances?

- God encounters produce radically generous people. Vv32, 34
- Giving financially (tithes & offerings) is only one aspect of radical generosity. Deut14:23; Matt23:23; Acts2:42-47
- Radically generous people will give: Consistently, Willingly, Joyfully, Sacrificially & Expectantly. 1Cor16:2; 2Cor8:3-4, 9:6-8
- Radical generosity validates my faith & gives credibility to onlookers. V33
- Radical generosity can be scary stuff but God starts where we are not where He wants us to be. True faith requires first steps. Heb11:1, 6; James2:26

- Stinginess comes from Pride (Money is my significance) & Fear (money is my security). V32; 1Tim6:6-10
- God's grace fills us with humble courage. V33

Do I want you to be more generous? Yes, but first, I want you to be swept up into the Father's arms of love and know deep within your heart you are His child and out of that will come radical generosity.



Growing

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- 1) A postcard of the Grand Canyon is nothing compared to standing on its edge entranced by beauty & glory. What is the difference between a postcard view of God versus being entranced by His beauty & glory? Which one would produce radically generous people? Explain.

- 2) Read Acts 4:29-37. What is the context of this text? It's a historical fact that 1st century Christians met persecution, imprisonment & death with an astonishing courage. Why is that true? What does it mean that if you are shaken by God you will be unshaken by anything in this world & become a shaker of this world?

- 3) How is an encounter with God a whole person (thoughts, feelings, actions) experience? Why is it important to balance head & heart when it comes to experiencing God (Jn4:23-24)? What does the text say this God encounter produced (Vv32, 34)?

- 4) Why is giving financially (tithes & offerings) only one aspect of radical generosity (v32; Acts2:42-47)? What are the five characteristics of radical generosity? How does radical generosity validate my faith & give credibility to onlookers (V33)?

- 5) Radical generosity can be scary stuff but true faith requires first steps (Heb11:1, 6; James2:26). Explain. Where does stinginess come from and how does grace overcome it (v33)? Pray for DYT2 & our MOVE.