

TITLE SLIDE

Generous Hearts

Intro

Becoming more like Jesus demonstrating the character of Christ in everything we do. We have glimpses of the heart of God demonstrated at times by the prophet Elisha. If we look at some of the amazing exploits that he partnered with God to see happen we get pictures of the Messiah or Gods grace personified in Jesus which is demonstrated through His Church. Jesus was always letting people know that He was glad to be with them. That He was joyful and His generous gift was to reveal the Father and His love for them. Elisha demonstrated characteristics of the Church in relationship with Jesus.

SLIDE

Glimpses of the New in the Old **Elisha - God is salvation** **Jesus - Jehovah is salvation**

“The ‘double portion’ is that which denotes the proportion of a father’s property which was the right of an eldest son (Deuteronomy 21:17). Elisha therefore asked for twice as much of Elijah’s spirit as should be inherited by any other of the ‘sons of the prophets.’ He wished to be acknowledged as Elijah’s ‘firstborn spiritual son’” (*Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, 2 Kings 2:9*).

“Elisha didn’t ask for worldly honor or for a high place among men. What he really desired was a large measure of the Holy Spirit that God had so freely placed upon the prophet Elijah. He knew that He needed God’s Holy Spirit to equip him for the responsibilities that lay ahead.”

Similarities of what the Church can expect to happen at the hands of anyone who believes.

ELISHA	JESUS	CHURCH
<p>2 Kings 2:19-22 healed the waters and ended the barrenness of the Jericho which had been under a curse since the days of Joshua</p>		
<p>2 Kings 4 The widow woman who's husband died and the creditors were coming for her sons to reconcile the debt</p>	<p>Turning the water into wine for the wedding at Cana of Galilee</p>	
<p>2 Kings 2 Kings 4:38-41 poison in the pot of stew and how he through in some flour</p>		
<p>2 Kings 4:42-44 Miracle of grain and twenty loaves of barley bread for a hundred people to eat</p>	<p>Miracle of the loaves of fishes multiple times where thousands of people were fed and there was plenty left over.</p>	

<p>2 Kings 4:8- Elisha restored The Shunnamite's husband's youthfulness so they could have a child and later in that chapter when the child died Ellsha brought her son back from the dead.</p>	<p>Widow woman of Nain er here son was brought back to life. Or the Ruler of the synagogue who's daughter died and Jesus brought her back to life.</p>	<p>Peter bringing Tabitha back to life</p>
<p>2 Kings 5 Healing – Healing of Naaman the Syrian from leprosy</p>	<p>Jesus healing the lepers the account of one person and then the 10 that were together.</p>	<p>Paul's handkerchiefs or aprons were brought to people and diseases departed from them.</p>
<p>2 Kings 7 Famine after the Syrians was holding Israel under siege and how God used four (4) leprous men to bring to end to Israel being under siege and to the famine</p>		
<p>2 Kings 8 Later Elisha warned the Shunnamite of an upcoming famine and told her to leave that</p>		<p>In the book of Acts were told how the church got together and out of what God had given to them</p>

land and the favor that was on her life because of Elisha made it possible for her to have her land restored in its fullness after the famine was over.		they gave to insure how everyone within the church was cared for.
--	--	--

TRANSITION

After coming out of a Pandemic now we're being forewarned of a coming Recession and all of the financial hardships that will come along with it. For the church most of us know not to partner with the nay-sayers. However, just like during the pandemic many people suffered (including Christians) it's important for us to remember that God has answers for navigating financially challenging times.

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

SLIDE

Financial prosperity isn't God giving you money; He gives you an anointing that enables you to prosper. The real asset is not the money—not the house, not the car, not the physical tangible things—it is the anointing from God to produce wealth. The real asset is the favor of God. Andrew Wommack

Money is relational, it impacts the ways we interact with the world. I like the way Henri Noumen says it in his book A Spirituality of Fundraising,

SLIDE

“If money touches our relationships with family members as well as the world beyond our home, it also reaches into our inner life.”

Henri J. M. Noumen

Interactive Demo

To help you process money matters with the Lord it will be helpful to review some things about how our brains operate:

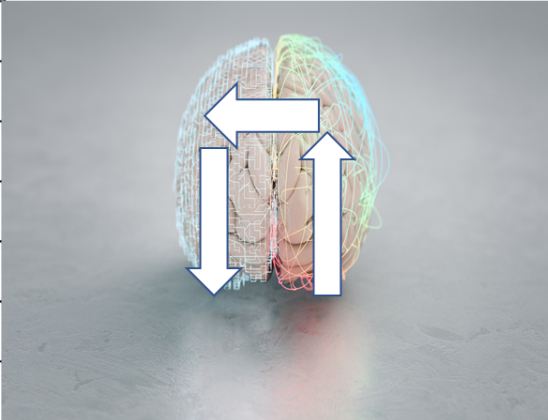
Brain:

Left Hemisphere – (conscious) processes data at 1/5th of second

Right Hemisphere – (supra-conscious) processes data at 1/6th of second

=====

Brain

LEFT (SLOW TRACK)		RIGHT (FAST TRACK)
Conscious Thought		Individual Identity
Speech		Group Identity
Strategies		Emotional Attunement to Others
Problem Solving		Assessment of surroundings (Good, Bad, Scary)
Logic		Relational Attachments
Stories		

Data Processing Pathway of the Brain

Attachment - 1 is it personal to me (1 chair)

Assessment - 2 is this good bad scary (3 chairs)

Attunement - 3 face to face - emotional attunement, can I share it with someone (2 Chairs)

Prefrontal Cortex - 4: Executive Center of the Brain where decisions are made to follow the previously defined file and experiences while engaging with the people who are in my group. Three (3) relational attachments are they actively being engaged or are they shutdown. 3 Chairs - You, Jesus and someone that is modeling Christ likeness.

DEMO – 2 Scenarios

- I'm afraid of airplane turbulence – was asked to lead a mission team overseas at the last minute
- Got fired because of a mistake I made

SLIDE

Luke 16 & 17 (Commentary)

**Unjust Steward
The Rich Man and Lazarus
Lesson on Forgiveness**

⁸And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. (I believe the lord in this verse is referring to the master of the unjust steward and the comment on how wise the children of the world are is from Jesus.)

⁹And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. (Make friends – of those who are in darkness by helping them come into the Kingdom of God as friends they will improve your quality of life and when you die they will welcome you in heaven)

¹⁰ He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (He is saying being faithful in your money is the least thing and if you don't trust that God provides you with money to steward then you will place your trust in your own ability to obtain provision, supply, assets, money.)

¹¹ If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? (This is a question where the answer is already embedded in it. If you haven't used your faith to steward money, who will commit to your trust the true riches to steward? No one because you are not using your faith on that which is least.)

¹² And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? (This is one principle that describes what faith does. Faith grabs hold of what God has supplied. If you're not using your faith to steward money, then you can't grab hold of anything God is putting in your hands to steward whether it's for someone else or for yourself.)

¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Unlike the mind, which can be divided, God looks at the heart (where imaginations reside) and He says you cannot serve Him and mammon or another definition for mammon in this context is the spirit of self-reliance where avarice rules).

¹⁸ Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery. (They were justifying themselves and they were covetous. They were offending women,

including their sisters and mothers. Their hearts were blinded to the things of God. They were unable to discern God's ways because of who they served. However, Jesus went on to tell them about the rich man and Lazarus the beggar to try and help them change their minds about God's ways and God's thoughts towards them.

³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

(Another way of saying it is, if they are unwilling to hear the words of Moses and the prophets who wrote by the inspiration of God about the way of salvation - which is Jesus the Resurrection and the Life the one who conquered death, they won't use their faith to receive the words from someone that comes back from the dead. They will be unable to process the good news (the gospel) because they will be serving mammon). But Jesus didn't leave it there, He went on into the 17th chapter talking about forgiveness.

17

³ Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

(One of the heart matters that Jesus is telling His disciples is to forgive the one who trespasses against you, forgive the one who derides you like the Pharisees were deriding Him, forgive the ones who are friends of unrighteous mammon, hopefully they will repent and come into the Kingdom of God. Because I died for them also, they to are natural sons of Abraham). Jesus didn't want their current circumstances to keep them from experiencing what God had for them.

Imagine Jesus sitting next to you sharing the “why” behind this story. The “why” is His desire to relationally connect with you. Jesus was trying to help all of them realize that He gets them. He is someone safe to share their concerns around financial security. He wanted them to know that you can trust God with your financial security. He wanted this knowing to be a right brain reality for them. So they could be free of their fears and biases that were fueled by their supra-conscious thoughts.

In the midst of difficult financial circumstances (famine, recession, high inflation) God always comes through. His covenant includes blessing His children to become a blessing so they can help others see God’s goodness.

SLIDE

God is radically generous, and He wants others to experience His generosity through you

Remind them of the advent season and the celebration of God’s great love for us by sending his son Jesus....

Tell them what the Lord wants them to do for 2023

Give them the opportunity to give above the normal tithes and offering in 2023 for the building fund so together we can be radically generous to our community (businesses, schools, housing, clinics). Ask them to ask Me for a vision/word on how much to give into My work in their community. Write it down and talk to me about it monthly. Whatever comes to mind however they are feeling. Tell them I want to put the added resources in their hands. Don’t specify an amount, just give them a target. 2023 is year of Giving

COMMUNION

A BLESSING – TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR AND REPEAT THIS TO THEM

“THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU
AN BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE”

CONFESSION SLIDE

- I’m attuned to the face of Jesus,
- I believe that He wants to be with me during challenging times,
- I believe that He has given me healing, wholeness, peace, and the power to get wealth,
- I’m generous because of His great love for me.