

What Does Your Giving Cost You?

Does the offering during a church service bother you? Churches get criticized a lot for talking about money all the time. I think one reason why is because we take up an offering every week. Studies show that the majority of churches NEVER talk about money. Yet for many simply taking up the offering is too much talk about money. You might not like that we spend time before every offering telling stories about how much your gift counts for helping us do what we do here.

We take up the offering because giving is an act of worship. It is an act of love for those that love Christ. Think about it, when you love someone don't you want to give them gifts to show them you love them. Do you give them cheap gifts or meaningful gifts? You give the best gift you can. The more you love someone the more you want to give a gift no matter what the cost is to you. Jewelry stores are counting on you do this. We spend as much as we can to show the extent of our love.

In the Old Testament there is a story of how David wanted to buy a field to offer sacrifices to God. He asked the owner to sell that land to him but the owner wanted to give the land to David. David famously said to him, **"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."** II Samuel 24:24 For David the cost of his gift showed the extent of his love. He felt a need to pay to show his gratefulness over God's mercy and he would not allow anyone to take away his sacrifice of love. The cost of the gift was negated by the love David wanted to express.

How about you? Do you give no matter what it cost you? Or are you looking to give the least you can so you can keep more for yourself? What and how we give says a lot about our love for Christ. Let's give this morning a gift worthy of the God who loved us so much that He gave his only son for us!