

You Can't Afford NOT to Give

The number one reason most people say they don't give to a church is that they cannot afford to give. What is interesting is those same people rush right out after church to be the first in line at the restaurant. Studies show that the average American spends over \$1,200 annually eating out. So how much do we give to the church? **The median gift to a church in America is \$200 a year!** So, we can't afford to give but we can afford to eat out?

Here is a principle to live by, you can't afford NOT to give! You will never meet a generous person who tells you giving was a mistake. You will never meet a generous person who will tell you that giving caused them to miss out on things. You will find that they agree with my stated principle that you cannot afford NOT to give. In fact generous people will tell you that they are able to be generous because, they are generous!

Does that seem contradictory to you? Consider what the Bible says about giving in II Corinthians 9:6 where it says, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." Then further in that text it says, "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

What God is promising us is that IF we are generous He will bless us so that we can bless others. Your gift here to our church helps us be a blessing to countless number of people. Giving doesn't cost you. Giving helps you. So this morning we encourage you to be generous and give because **you can't afford NOT to give!**