

POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Web site: www.pgimf.org

E-mail: info@pgimf.org

August 14th, 2016

J. Evan Kreider - *Tithing - Pt. II*

Worship Leader:
Accompanist:

Kevin Hiebert
Andre Pekovich

Song Leader:
Usher:

Andre Pekovich
Edward Epp

Last Sunday Dr. Veronica Dyck showed us how Jesus' assuring words in Luke 12 remind us to fear not, but trust God's ongoing joy in sharing the eternal kingdom with us. Are we feeling too anxious or insecure to respond to the needs of the poor? Just as Isaiah called on Israel to seek justice and rescue the oppressed, we are expected to use our wealth for the kingdom's purposes and not a selfish source of comfort. We can worship God by responding generously as we wait patiently for the Messiah's unexpected return. When Christ returns, will he find us giving or taking? [KH]

Listen to the sermon in your web browser at <http://pgimf.org/service/be-not-afraid-waiting-patiently/>

PGIMF News

August 21
August 28
September 4
September 11

Jonas Cornelsen
Henry Klippenstein
From Nadia Bolz Weber
Paul Stephens

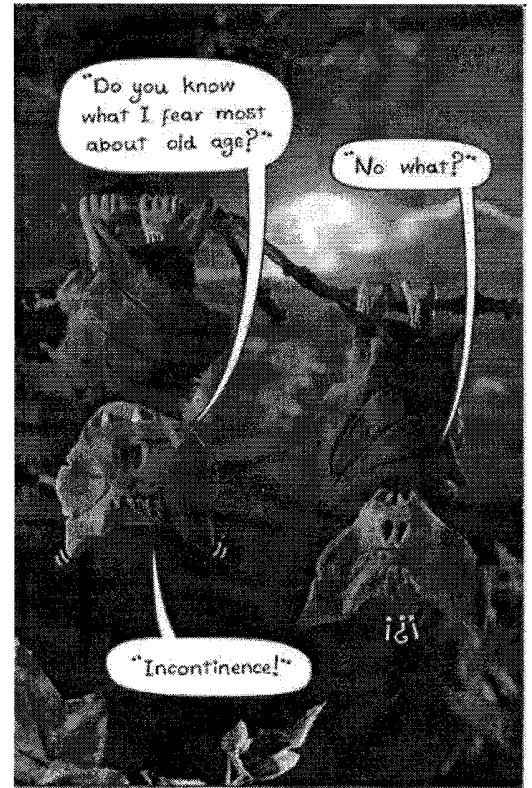
Lectionary
Lectionary
A Response-ibility to Evil
Student welcome/Potluck BBQ

PGIMF Summer Barbeque You are all invited to the annual PGIMF summer backyard barbeque at Erika Hannan's (6222 St. Catherine's St., Vancouver) on Sunday August 21st, after the service. More details to follow.

Potlucks at Menno Simons Centre Wednesday potlucks at Menno happen at 7:00 pm every week from May to August! All are welcome - please bring a dish to share!

Wider Church

Pacific Theatre needs a place for actor Carl Kennedy to stay for 6 weeks this fall. (If you could do a portion of that time, but not all, let us know.) Carl is a PT regular: Common Grace, The Whipping Man, Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot. Contact Ron Reed: ronreed@me.com.



RECORDING THE SERVICE

Please note that we now record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will continue to be not recorded.

Moderator—Curtis Funk (604-992-6913); *Worship*—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);
Pastoral Care—Lois Funk (604-992-6913); *Recording Secretary*--- Diane Ehling (604-904-1380);
Music—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); *At Large*—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); Travis Martin (604-603-7843);
Congregational Co-ordinator (bulletins)—Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007)

Summary on Tithing According to the Law (Old Testament)

1. According to the Law, tithing concerned giving 1/10 of your agricultural harvests (grains, fruits, oils from olives, and even alcohol from grapes and grains), and 1/10 of new livestock born in a given year. Tithes were never given directly to the Temple, but rather to the local Levites.
2. According to the Law, every third year, tithes were diverted to local store houses (tithing barns) so that local widows, orphans (we would call them “street kids”) could be supported, and also Levites (who did not own land).
3. According to the Law, tithing never involved income, commercial fishing, carpentry, land sales, loans, etc. Tithing concerned only that to which God gave life: crops, farm animals.
4. In the bible, no tithe money ever paid for any construction projects. The Temple was built by donations and government. The Temple had a small annual Temple Tax, and generous alms-giving was strongly urged in the Law and by all the prophets.
5. What modern Christians refer to as ‘tithing’, as in giving a 10th of our net or gross income, may be a good idea, but it has absolutely no biblical basis in the O.T.

Comments by Jesus concerning tithing (tithing according to the Law)

Luke 11 One of a whole series of “woe to you Pharisees” (while eating in his house!)

37 While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table.

38 The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner.

39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

40 You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

41 So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you.

42 "But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others.

Luke 18:9-14 Pharisee vs Tax Collector

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The **Pharisee**, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' [=over and beyond what the Law specified, very devout indeed]

13 But the **tax collector** [someone not required to tithe according to the Law], standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" **14** I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Comments by Jesus concerning Giving Directly to Poor People

Mark 12:40-44 Widow's mite.

40 They [the scribes] devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. **Many rich people put in large sums.**

42 A poor widow came [had her house been 'devoured' by the rich people?] and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Matthew 6:1-4 Jesus distinguishes between false religious piety and civilized ethical behaviour

1 "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be

praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you....

Matthew 5 (see also: Luke 6:30, slightly different)

⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

[i.e., even if you suspect/know you will never get the money back.]

Luke 12:32-34

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing

treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 19:21-22 (also in Luke 18)

Jesus said to him ['rich young ruler'], "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure

in heaven: then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Matthew 25 The generosity of your Giving (not your tithing according to the Law) determines whether God admits you to heaven. All six situations involve money, not faith/belief; (point 6 assumes taking food, blankets, etc. to someone in debtors' prison)

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for [1] I was hungry and you gave me food, [2] I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, [3] I was a stranger

and you welcomed me, [4] I was naked and you gave me clothing, [5] I was sick and you took care of me, [6] I was in prison and you visited me Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

[Nowhere does Jesus say that you give directly to him, or to his disciples, or to his Treasurer, Judas. No, you give to people in need—that, said Jesus, is the same as giving directly to Jesus himself