

## WELCOME

### Our Mission is to . . .

- Connect you to Jesus
- Connect you to His community for discipleship
- Connect you to your mission and purpose in life

**We are not here to tell you what to wear, eat, listen to, vote for, or even believe. These are things you must determine for yourself if you want to have real faith. We are here to give you truth, facts, tools and point out that every choice, every belief, and every action you make is tied to an outcome in your life. You can't do life without developing a strong foundation and becoming a person of substance. This is your journey, your discovery, and you will reap the benefit of the work you do.**

**FHNew** - Our mission as a church is to do everything we can to help you grow your faith. If you would like to get to know us a little better or begin or continue your journey of faith, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you a link to a few short videos about Foothills Church. Or for more information, stop by the **Connection booth in the Atrium**.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Fill out a **Connect card** using the QR code on the screen or the actual card on the seat back in front of you. Place your prayer request in the ORANGE offering box in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also send a prayer request using this form: [Prayer Request - Foothills Church](#). The staff and volunteers pray over these weekly.

**FHBaptism** - One important step in your faith journey is being baptized. To learn more about baptism, speak to an elder or staff member or **contact Foothills** at **208-853-0011** and we will send you the teaching on Believers' Baptism.

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## ONGOING/UPCOMING

- **MomCo** - [Foothills MomCo - Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- **Small Groups** - [Foothills Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
- **Bible Recap: Read through the Bible in a Year** ([Linda Kraft - The Bible Recap - Foothills Church](#))
- [Essentials of the Faith](#) – Feb 23 & Mar 2, 11am-12pm. **Who is Jesus? What is the Bible?** Whether you are new on your faith journey or a long-time believer, this class can help you build a strong foundation, deepen your understanding and defend your faith. **Childcare provided.**
- [Financial Peace University](#) – **Sundays, March 9-May 11, 9:30-11 am** or **Tuesdays, March 11-May 13**. Learn how to eliminate debt, build savings and create a solid financial future. **Childcare provided.**
- **Financial Peace University** – [Volunteers needed](#)

**INTRODUCTION: Interim Pastor Trent Renner**

*"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care." 1 Timothy 6:20 (NIV)*

**Last week we learned about Plastic Donuts Truth #1 & Truth #2**

- **TRUTH #1: The AMOUNT I give to God matters**
- **TRUTH #2: I determine the amount I give**

**TRUTH #3: I GIVE ACCORDING TO MY ABILITIES**

God's standard for your giving an acceptable gift, an amount that matters, is that you give according to your abilities and your eagerness

*"Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have." 2 Corinthians 8:12 (NLT)*

**Giving according to my abilities...**

- Is an Old Testament Standard!

*"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given them by the Lord your God." Deuteronomy 16:17*

- Is a New Testament Standard!

*"So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could." Acts 11:29*

**Let's get "ABILITY" technical...**

When most people think of giving, they think of only one ability. But, each of us has multiple abilities or sources, which God has granted us, from which we can give an acceptable gift back to Him.

- **Profit Ability**

*1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. 2On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.*

- **Paid-For Ability**

*Deuteronomy 8:12-18 For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, 13and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! 14Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. 15Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and*

scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! 16He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good. 17He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' 18Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

- **Possession Ability**

**Luke 19: 1-10** Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. **"Zacchaeus!"** he said. **"Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."** 6Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

8Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

9Jesus responded, **"Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."**

### It's really about Faith and Relationship...

Giving acceptable gifts is about a relationship with God.

- "And without faith it is impossible to please God." **Hebrews 11:6**

### Did you know Jesus said there is a time NOT to give?

"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come offer your sacrifice to God." **Matthew 5:23-24**

### **TRUTH #4: THE HEART MAKES THE GIFT ACCEPTABLE**

The condition of our heart matters when we are giving to God. If my heart is not right, then my gifts are unacceptable to God because He is after our heart.

### **GOD KNOWS OUR HEART'S CONDITION**

"People judge the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." **1 Samuel 16:7**

*“The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at Him. Then He said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.” **Luke 16:14-15***

*“People may be right in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their heart.” **Proverbs 21:2***

### **Here is the great thing about God... GOD WANTS TO CORRECT THE CONDITION OF MY HEART**

What is most important right now is that God sees our hearts and knows our lives AND He still loves us unconditionally. The condition of our heart matters. No gift can be acceptable to God if our hearts are not right before Him. If there is unforgiveness, if there is disobedience, if your lifestyle is off the mark, if your focus is not on your relationship with Him... He already knows.

And all He desires is that you come to Him in honest openness and confess your failures and seek His forgiveness and love. He is standing with arms wide open to love you like a Father loves His child. No condemnation, no “I told you so,” just simply welcome back, I love you.

When your heart is clean and right, then your giving is received by your Father as a pleasing aroma that touches the heart of God.

### **When we confess our sins and get right with God...**

*“If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” **1 John 1:9***

*“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” **Psalms 103:12***

*“Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!” **Matthew 25:23***

### **The 4 Truths about my gifts to God**

1. The amount matters
2. I decide the amount
3. I give according to my abilities
4. My heart makes my gift acceptable

### **CALL TO ACTION**

1. Do everything I can to make sure my heart is right with God
2. Make a decision to give regularly to the Lord the kind of gifts that delight His heart and mine, causing God and me to delight in our relationship