

pt.7 - Overcoming Fear - The Fear Of Giving - pt.1

Sermon Title: **pt.7 - Overcoming Fear - The Fear Of Giving - pt.1**

Sermon Number: **5692**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

Link to sermon audio - <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5692.mp3>

Link to sermon video - <http://theark.s3.amazonaws.com/vid/5692.mp4>



BrothersofTheWord.com

Nathaniel Bronner: Sometimes, people, God has to take us to a point where he has to show us we are not in control.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part seven of the message titled, "Overcoming Fear", subtitled "The Fear of Giving Part 1", by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5692. That's 5692. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:23 - 00:00:52)

And now for 5692, Overcoming Fear Part 7 - The Fear of Giving - Part 1.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today, we are still in the midst of a series called, "Overcoming Fear."

And the last message, message number 5691, I used in that message lemons as an example of intimacy and when you get to know something. But in order to get the lemons, I had forgotten to bring them from home when I got here to the church and I had to go across the street to a neighbor's house and I borrowed two lemons from them. I had also sent someone to the store to get some lemons but I didn't know whether they would get back in time enough by the time I began the message and they did get back and they brought a dozen of lemons.

I borrowed two lemons but I returned to the neighbor 14 lemons, a seven-fold increase. And when I did that, I heard God speaks that for the next message he said it shall be on the fear of giving. When they gave me the two lemons, I just asked to borrow the lemons because I was going to bring the lemons right back. They said, "That's okay. You can have these lemons; we're giving these lemons to you."

So, they gave the lemons without an expectation of return. And within a couple of hours I knocked on the door and where they had given 2, 14 was returned. And then He said, "You stick to the time limit and this is going to deal with two parts because it's going to take you two parts to get over to the people what I want them to know." And He said, "These two in terms of the fear of giving --" because there are a lot of different types of giving, there's a lot of different things you can give. But He

said, "This is going to be on this."

You all know what this is? What is this? You all know what this is? This is money. This is money and this is my personal check. It's got a picture on it. This is a picture of me on the left, it's a picture of my wife on the right. So, my money is joined where my wife literally on the check. So, this is cash money and a check. Now, first of all, I'm not giving you one penny of this money because I don't think the way pastor sometimes at the end of -- no, no, no. All these money are going right back in my pocket. So I don't really want you to be thinking about it. I don't want it on your mind because that's not going to happen. You all turn to your neighbor and say, "That's not going to happen." That's not going to happen.

So, God says for these next two messages deal with the fear of giving and deal with the aspect of money. Now, first of all, I want you to understand this is not any type of hard-hitting message for you to donate more in your offering, because I want to tell you the ark really does a phenomenal job in its giving. For our size of congregation, the amount of money that you give as members of this church is way above average.

Now, there are some as there are in all places who don't give whatta hoot(ph). There are some who don't give whatta hoot. But as a general body, we do extremely well in our giving here. So, this is not a fuzzing of anything about any giving here with the ark, we do an excellent job, but I'm going to follow what God told me and deal with the fear of giving in two parts and deal with money.

In Matthew, Mark and Luke, one of every six verses deals with money. Of the 29 parables that Jesus told, 16 over half of them deal with a person and his money. And when you're dealing with mathematics, if you have a theorem, if you have an equation, and if you want to prove whether or not this equation is true, you do what is called extremes . You plug into the equation, extreme numbers, either extremely large or extremely small.

00:05:03

Generally, in math, if the equation or a theorem holds true on the extremes, then you can generally say that that equation will

hold true in all circumstances.

So, today I want to talk about an extreme. I want to focus on one man. You've all heard the name of this man but you perhaps don't know very much about him at all. The man is John D. Rockefeller, Sr. He is the founder, president, the chief stockholder of standard oil. In 1911, the justice department ruled that standard oil had become so big and so powerful that it was a monopoly and ordered it broken up into 34 separate companies. Now, some of these companies you know today Exxon, Mobil, Chevron, Amaco and Marathon, just a few of the companies that came out of the companies that John D. Rockefeller, Sr. started.

At his peak, Rockefeller controlled 90% of all of the oil in America. At his death, he was worth in today's dollars over 300 billion dollars. He was worth multiples of the richest man alive today, multiples of the richest man alive today. Rockefeller, John D. Rockefeller is considered to be the wealthiest man in all of the history of the world. He is an extreme.

So, I want to take to prove a mathematical theorem, the richest man monetarily speaking who ever lived. And everytime you go to the gas station, it's a probability that you pump in your gas from a company John D. Rockefeller started. So, when you go and fill up, some of that same money still is going to the descendants of John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in all of history.

"But pastor what does that have to do with the fear of giving?" I'm getting to that. John D. Rockefeller, Sr. was the first billionaire in America. John Davison Rockefeller. He was the son of an (00:07:35) medicine peddler. (00:07:37) means basically kind of broke. He was the son of a medicine peddler and bigamist, that's a man who has more than one family, more than one wife, who wandered in and out of his son's life. He was born poor with an unfaithful absent father.

So, the richest man in history was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was not born with a strong daddy image. I don't know whether his daddy image was strong but he wasn't there. So, he was born in what would be considered not just today but even back then, he was born in disadvantages and the circumstances of life. So, he was set up from the start by all

natural indications. He was a millionaire by the age of 23. By 50, he was a billionaire and he wasn't just a billionaire, he was the first American billionaire. So, if you could imagine here was this man, born in poverty, born without a stable daddy at home, and at the age of 23 became a millionaire and at the age of 50 became the richest person in the country.

So, here was John D. Rockefeller, Sr., at 50 could buy more than any other person on the face of the earth. But yet at the age of 53, his entire body became wrecked with pain. He lost all of the hair on his head. He was in complete agony. The world's only billionaire could buy anything he wanted but he could only digest milk and crackers. He had a personal chef, had a whole kitchen as a matter of fact just devoted with nothing but servants and chefs and all that stuff, but all he could eat, all he could eat was milk and crackers. An associate friend of his wrote, "He could not sleep, would not smile and nothing in life meant anything to him." His personal doctor predicted that he would be dead within a year.

00:10:00

Rockefeller awoke one morning from a dream. During this miserable time in his life, realizing that he was not in control of his life and that he could not be taking any of his success with him when he passed on. Rockefeller in that dream realized what Job realized. In Job 1:20, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head," see Job was bald just like Rockefeller. "And fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

In this time of his life, Rockefeller, the richest man in America, realized three very key things. Number one, it was a miserable time in his life. Just like Job realized that. He was sick, he couldn't enjoy any really of the material things in life because my guess is if you couldn't eat, he couldn't do much anything else. So, here he was sick, he had the best doctors in medical care that money could buy and they were telling him, "Man, you're not going to make it another year." So, the prognosis, the diagnosis -- it didn't matter what kind of insurance he had. He didn't need any insurance because he own the insurance

company. He owned all of these stuffs. So, yet, owning all of these, they could only tell him in a year you will be dead. He realized it was a miserable time in his life.

Number two, he said, “He realized he was not in control.” He was a CEO, the founder, the president of the most powerful corporation in the country. He could direct and edict that would cause people, thousands of jobs, could make a break a city. This man had power extreme but yet here he was frail, shaking, couldn’t even eat a piece of chicken. He realized that he was not in control of his life. And see sometimes, people, God has to take us to a point where He has to show us we are not in control.

So, number one, he realized he was in a miserable time in his life, he was not in control of his life. And the third thing he realized was that he could not take none of his stuff with him. “Here I am, richest person in America, richest person who has ever been in America, I got less than one year to live and I can’t take any of this stuff with me and I’m 53 years old.”

These were the three realizations that dream brought to John Davison Rockefeller, Sr. But yet, he had an antiphony. He had what’s called a defining moment, he had a night that changed the rest of his life. And on that day after that dream, Rockefeller called his team of attorneys. He didn’t have just one lawyer, he had a team. So, most of us at best, at best, we can call one lawyer. Rockefeller called his team of attorneys. He called his team of accountants, and his team of managers and he said, “Establish the Rockefeller Foundation, and I want to channel my assets to hospitals, to medical research and mission work.”

He created life changing foundations that had a major impact on medicine, education, and scientific research. The Rockefeller Foundations pioneered the development of medical research and was instrumental in the eradication of hookworm and yellow fever. His foundation led to the discovery of penicillin. That was Rockefeller behind that. Well, you say, “The other man discovered --,” yeah but it was Rockefeller’s money that funded the research that did it. That was Rockefeller’s foundation that led to the discovery of penicillin that saved countless lives. Some of you right now have been fooling around (00:14:37) some and you had to go and get a shot of penicillin, that was Rockefeller that saved you.

Now I'm not going through detail because you know what I'm talking about. That was Rockefeller. I had to bring this stuff down when you don't understand that stuff. His research found cures for the current strains of malaria, tuberculosis and diphtheria along with enormous amount of other discoveries, all that was Rockefeller.

00:15:10

Rockefeller supported many church-based institutions throughout his life. He gave 80 million to the University of Chicago, turning a small Baptist college into a world-class institution by the 1900s. His general education board was especially active in supporting black schools in the south. Rockefeller believed he was a steward of all he had. He told his family that what they inherited was theirs only on a service basis and then money brought tremendous responsibility as well as opportunity. Rockefeller strongly believe that the ability to make money is a gift from God, to be developed in order to make as much as possible and then the money is to be used wisely for the good of mankind.

Now, the amazing part of the story, the moment John D. Rockefeller began to give at 53 with a less than one year diagnosis to live by the best medical minds of the day, the moment John D. Rockefeller began to give in this greatly enhanced way, his body's chemistry was altered so significantly that he got better. Instead of dying at 53, Rockefeller lived to 98.

The doctor said he would be dead 53 or 54 but he had a dream and in that dream he woke up realizing three things, he was in bad shape, he was not in control of his life and he won't be able to take anything with him. So, when he realized those three things, he woke up and said, "Well, I'm in bad shape now, I got less than a year to live, I can't take any of these with me, let me start giving. let me start giving."

So many of us we have a fear of giving. So, I'm taking the extremes, the richest man in the history and showing what happened to him and what happened to his life because even though he had all his money, he had run out of life. And all that the billion then back a hundred and fifteen years ago, that

billion then is way more than that now. So, having a billion then was like having 300 billion now. It was a humongous mind boggling. So he had all his money but he had no life left and the life he did have was miserable.

So, he woke up with the new realization, and I tell you people that concerning your giving some of you need to wake up and you need to understand some things. And you get the first part understood that you got some misery in your life, but you don't have the other parts understood that if you woke some of that misery changed and turned around and life added back unto you, change your philosophy of giving.

Rockefeller lived to 98. In 1900, the average life span for man was 46. Rockefeller lived another four life time after the doctor said he would be dead in a year. Rockefeller learned gratitude and he gave back from his wealth and doing so made him whole. It is one thing to be healed, it's another thing to be whole. And you say, "Wow, that's something. The man got all this money, had a dream, life was in a mess, start giving and it changed his world."

I'm going to tell you like Paul Harvey used to say, let me tell you the rest of the story. And we've heard the quote by John D. Rockefeller because I quoted it myself. When someone asked John D. Rockefeller, "Mr. Rockefeller, how much money is enough?" And he answered, "One more dollar than I have." That was a portion of his tri-part philosophy about money. But the world only knows that first push of Rockefeller's philosophy of money.

Let me tell you the rest of the story about the extreme case, the richest man in all of history. Let me tell you the rest of the story. Let me tell you the part before he got the billion, before he became the first billionaire in America. This is a quote from John Davison Rockefeller, Sr., "I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithe my first salary which was one dollar and fifty cents per week."

00:20:06

That's the rest of the story. So, the richest man in all of history said, "I would never have been able to tithe from my first million if I had not tithe from my first salary which was one dollar and

fifty cents a week.” John Davison Rockefeller, Sr., the richest man in all of history was a tither from the very beginning and his tri-part financial theory actually came from John Wesley who was a great theologian. And John Wesley’s philosophy was, “Earn all you can,” and that’s where the one dollar more than I’ve got came from. That’s why your philosophy shapes your opinion and it shapes your behavior, but most folk don’t know the other two of that tri-part that John D. Rockefeller, Sr. have. First, earn all you can, that we know, that most people in the modern industrialized world has firmly embraced, earn all you can.

Second part of that, “Save all you can.” See, most people have only gotten the part of earning and they spend everything they get, they don’t want to save. That’s why he invested it. And when you study John D. Rockefeller’s history, when he first got his money he began to invest here, invest there. He didn’t go out and buy stuff that depreciate overnight. He said, “Earn all you can, save all you can.”

And the third part of that tri-part philosophy of the richest man in history was, “Give all you can.” There was no accident that John D. Rockefeller became the world’s richest man. As his wealth grew so did his giving. Rockefeller was an abolitionist who voted for President Abraham Lincoln and supported the (00:22:10) Republican Party and this is what he said, “God gave me money,” and he did not apologize for it, he felt at ease and righteous following John Wesley’s (00:22:19). “Get all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” That’s the extreme as the richest man in all of history and that’s the synopsis of his story. He was not afraid of giving. He gave God his 10% when he earned one dollar and fifty cents a week.

Now, what happened with the dream, Rockefeller realized that even the 90% was God’s and he had to bump that 10% which he never stopped, he had to bump that 10% up to a whole new level. I’ll get into the second part of the Fear of Giving next week, but that was the extreme, but yet it’s not extreme because all of us can follow John D. Rockefeller’s example. He didn’t come from money, he didn’t have a stable daddy at home, he made a dollar and fifty cents a week. And a dollar and fifty cents a week back then is probably equivalent to a hundred dollars a week now.

So, he made a little amount but he took a little bit of what he had and he said I will give God, He is first and He never changed that principle and God blessed him and he became the richest man in history, but the richest man in history was a devout, strict tither.

There was some deep stuff dealing with this money. There really is. I'm putting this right back in my pocket. So, there's some deep stuff dealing with money and God says simply just focus on this for next two sets because money is important. Let nobody fool you by that. That's why Jesus talked about it so much. Over half of the parables have to do with money. It was a field or a pearl or some type of possession from 16 out of 29 had to do with money because money is important, let no one fool you and money has most people's hearts. And when it has your heart, it chokes out the word of God. So there are some things that we need to understand about giving and the fear of giving and how the wealthiest man who ever lived understood some key principles and he gave God his first. So, when you know that and understand that, it will help you to govern your lives accordingly.

We thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word. You can go to brothersoftheword.com, listen to the entire series, "Overcoming Fear." You can hear part two of "Overcoming Fear, The Fear of Money." Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com.

00:25:00

This was part seven of the message titled, "Overcoming Fear" subtitled "The Fear of Giving" part one by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5692. That's 5692. To listen to over a thousand free messages or to send this message number 5692 to a friend, go to brothersoftheword.com. Listen to brothersoftheword.com often because brother, you need the word.

(Music Playing)

00:25:32