

Using Money in the Household of God

1 Timothy 5:3-25

Dave Geldart | 2018-10-14

- Homestretch in 1 Tim- Aiming for Love in the HH of God

- 1 Timothy 5:3-25 stand (p 577 blue ESV bibles)

1. **Lots here. Going to focus specifically on the underlying question/topic here: Using Money in the HH of God!**
 - a. **Reformulated into a Q: How should the Church use money?**
 - b. Money is a fun topic in the church.
 - c. So many instantly get uncomfortable
 - d. But JC talked more about money than he did heaven and hell combined!
 - i. In fact how we use our money is one of the most addressed questions in the Bible!
 - e. And at root, we are ALL interested in this question
 - f. There are fewer more practical topics to teach and discuss than how Christians and Churches should interact with and use money.
2. **PRAY!**
3. **Putting the 4 main pieces together**
 - a. Basic teaching behind this passage on this topic is fairly straightforward:
 - i. Churches should care financially for its poorest/helpless members (widows in text)
 - ii. Churches should care financially for key leaders, esp who preach and teach – pay them!
 - iii. Churches should choose, honor, and hold accountable GODLY LEADERS, who are charged with administering church funds well
 1. Follows in step with our teaching 2 wks ago about leadership in the HH of god
 - iv. It's all about good works!
 - b. Stepping back to answer our original question more generally
 - i. Churches should use their money for good works through:
 1. ministries of service
 2. Ministries of the Word
4. **Churches are to invest financially in Ministries of the Word**
 - a. Churches should value preaching and teaching of the Word IN THEIR BUDGET
 - b. Evidenced by payroll for Elders who preach and teach
 - c. Historical difficulty doing this well
 - i. History of seemingly drunken swerving around the road on this one
 - ii. Sometimes paying astronomical salaries to top leaders. Usually with little to no accountability.
 1. Bishops who also consolidate power and become effective kings and queens over not only the flock, but their neighbors
 - iii. Other times, over correcting and equating ministry with a life of poverty
 1. Paying church leaders a pittance thinking their poverty was holy
 - iv. Our culture is a brackish mix of both these ditches!
 1. We see some celebrity church leaders earning their millions, with their private jets
 - a. And we rightly scoff!
 2. We also see and experience a Christian subculture that thinks church staff should be kept in relative poverty, out of fear that they might become lovers of money
 - v. But neither represents a Biblical view!
 1. Godly, church leaders are to be picked (as we noted before) for their GODLY QUALIFICATIONS!
 2. Then they should be doubly honored!

- a. PAY
- b. Either pay + honor
- c. Or even potentially “double pay”

3. WHY?

- a. Because paying the best high dollars will help grow our church budget?
- b. NO
- c. Because God has already spoken on the subject
 - i. “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain” (from OT)
 - ii. The laborer deserves his wages. (from JC’s teachings)
- d. Because those who LABOR in the ministry of the WORD deserve to be compensated (not just fairly, But DOUBLY HONORED).
- e. Because ministry of the Word is foundationally important!
- vi. More broadly, the church also invests in the ministry of the word in other ways too
 - 1. Equipping ministries
 - a. Its people
 - b. Its leaders
 - 2. Churches should evidence their value for the ministry of the word in their budgets!

5. Churches should invest financially in ministries of service

a. financially for its poorest/helpless members (widows in text)

i. No ancient Welfare System

- 1. Widows no hope, rights, destitute
 - a. Similar, orphans
- 2. Church was to step in to this gap with practical love
 - a. Providing for their needs!
 - b. (church widow enrollment procedure here)

3. James 1:27 – NLT - Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

ii. Lots of specifics in here about how to best do this in their scenario

- 1. But for our purposes tonight, we see that churches should care for their poor
 - a. As best fits their cultural and economic situation

b. 2 PRINCIPLES HERE for how churches should think about financially supporting the needy:

c. Principle 1 – families have first responsibility to care for their own

i. Starting w/ individual families [SLIDE]

- 1. First responsibility to care for needy extended family
- 2. So the church budget (usually small!) need not be overburdened in unnecessary or unhelpful care

ii. And also within churches [SLIDE]

- 1. Those who are TRULY widows
- 2. Those who couldn’t get help from family.

d. 2nd principle, Christians should have a heart for the poor AROUND THEM

i. Though not specifically addressed in this passage,

- 1. Seen in other NT writings AND historically of church
- 2. Early Xians also known for caring for orphans – the sick
 - a. Exposed babies
 - b. Plagues
 - c. *Julian the Apostate in 360, Letter to Arsacius*

i. *Bemoans how paganism is in decline because CHRISTIANS live such wonderful lives – including their kindness and care for strangers.*

ii. Caring for the Poor, the needy -- widows, orphans, sick, poor, outcast in society – THIS IS THE NATURAL OUTFLOW OF AND EFFECT OF THE GOSPEL

1. In 2 Cor 8: Paul ties our financial giving not to a command, but to the GOSPEL

a. **9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.**

6. So, what about us? How are WE using our money? How are we doing valuing both ministry of the WORD and Ministries of SERVICE here at TG?

a. Rough estimates we have 51 households connected w/ TG

i. giving units (some single, some families, some local, some elsewhere)

b. Right now, 16 of these are elsewhere!

i. Christians who are investing heavily in God's work through our church!

ii. These make up 20% of our current income

iii. If any of you are watching online, THANK YOU!!!

1. You're Tallgrassians!

c. Rest, about 35 units

i. We're pretty average in that about 30% of our Gus give 0 to TG, about 11 GUs

ii. The other 24 units are giving really well!, far above avg.

iii. God has provided so generously for our new church plant

1. From without

2. From generous givers from within

d. What's our current TG financial situation

i. What are we using our money for?

1. TG foundationally investing in ministry of the Word!

a. 2 staffers

b. Allowing us to preach, teach God's Word, and to invest in the long term ministry of our church by equipping the saints (that's you) for the good works of ministry!

c. ~2/3 of budget here.

2. 10% of income we are giving to missions ventures outside our body

a. HIS

b. Adoptions

c. Neighboring

3. Remaining ~1/4th invested in various ministries, including administrative needs

ii. God has provided!

iii. We need to average \$11,754/mo to make our 2018 budget.

iv. So far we're averaging a little more than that!

1. 12,867/mo!

2. All w/o passing the plate or asking for money!

v. We have about 50K in the bank.

1. Gives us a comfortable operating cushion of a little over 4mo current budgeted expenses!

vi. God has been so gracious!

vii. It's right that we celebrate!

1. Where we're at is little short of miraculous!

viii. But there's still quite a bit of room for growth

1. Giving potential from local TGians

- a. Is all 35 units average to MHK HH income of \$50,698
- b. Means annual income together of almost \$2 million
- c. That means if all TGians decided to give 10% to TG, we'd have an annual budget of almost 200K. Plus any outside donations

2. If we had more resources as a body, we'd be able to use them!

- a. Specifically in engaging with ministries of service and mercy.

b. Churches need BOTH to be healthy, engaged long term

3. We're committed to developing a robust, healthy value of BOTH aspects of ministry as a church!

4. TG tends to be more naturally supporting \$ of Min of Word

5. But has opportunities to GROW in ministries of Service

- a. Engaging in care and support within our body
- b. And out into our neighborhoods
- c. And around our world!

7. Addressing a common question:

a. What do we do if we don't have much real poverty/needs in our church?

- i. Right now, we don't have much real poor in our congregation.

1. That we know of.
2. Perhaps in the future! Lord willing.

- ii. So, What do we do with our money for service now?

1. We're curious about being able to level up our care engagement

2. Since we don't have foundation poverty needs in our church, frees us up to allocate out a little!

- a. To move out in concentric circles of care
- b. EXCITING!

3. Support of those in our church trying to ADOPT

- a. A significant investment for families!
 - i. Emotional, relational, yes
 - ii. But also financial burden
- b. We've been excited to support the Greeves as they have welcomed Hope into their family
- c. And now to support Chris and Effie as they seek to adopt a child – an orphan.
 - i. SUPPORT the Swansons adoption, grab the letter, help them get that matching grant!
 - ii. GOOD WORKS there for sure!
 - iii. Care for the helpless orphan who's still "out there"

4. Other opportunities to give care and support to the needs around us

- a. YES, our contact points with neighborhoods and needs are opportunities to give care through LGs is strategic.
- b. We are committed to this.
- c. Think we'll continue to discover good works there

5. **But we also long for a coordinated, tangible outlet for service ministry for our church as a whole, no matter what LG or neighborhood you're in.**
 - a. Something we can sink our teeth into TOGETHER
 - b. Meet real needs together.
 - c. See what God might do TOGETHER!
6. **Tallgrass is not called to meet all the world's needs.**
 - a. We cant!
 - b. But we know the One who can!
 - c. But we can meet some!
 - i. Starting where we're at
 - d. God is God. We're his children. He's pieces all over the map!
 - i. He's saving the world
 - ii. And He's invited us to play an active part
 - e. Therein lies our rest AND our urgency!
 - i. Our next step of faith

8. APPLICATIONS for TG

a. Grow an Eternal Investment Mentality

- i. We live now in this short little timeslot we call our present life, we have a cosmically unique opportunity to USE -- to CONVERT -- temporal, physical wealth into eternal good
 1. To INVEST in eternity
 2. Not only for the alleviation of suffering now,
 3. But for the salvation and resurrection of immortal souls
- ii. – **Grab a MONEY POSSESSIONS AND ETERNITY – today \$10**
- iii. We want to grow in sacrificial generosity NOT so we can have the coolest church or the nicest stuff - -- OR GET OUR OWN BUILDING (per se)
 1. But in grateful response to the Gospel!
 2. In response to the Gospel, FOR GOOD WORKS!
 - a. For the poor in body
 - b. For the poor in power
 - c. For the poor in spirit!
- iv. Not just individually, BUT TOGETHER!!!
 1. As a church family!
 2. It might just be profoundly fun
- v. Elliot/Phillip Henry quote -- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

b. Consider upping your giving to Kingdom purposes, especially through TG Church

- i. Might God be wanting to refocus your view of your own financial resources
- ii. So that you might join in what HE's doing – Kingdom investments?
- iii. Whatever your level of giving (including 0!), prayerfully consider taking a step forward!
 1. Maybe up your percentage
 2. Maybe just up via a fixed amount
 3. Maybe base giving on your GROSS rather than your net
4. **PERSONAL TESTIMONY**
 - a. I struggle with considering myself poor, when I'm not.

- i. Hard for me not to tie my sense of security to the number in my bank account!
 - b. But God's been patiently showing me how rich I really am.
 - i. It's a humbling awakening!
 - c. Years ago, after taking (AND HELPING TEACH) Kingdom Stewardship class at NH, Jenn and I decided to take a step in faith.
 - i. Went from 10% to 11%
 - ii. Years later went up to 12%
 - d. And God has always provided!
 - i. Generously!
 - iv. And find how God provides for the providers
 - 1. Let him teach you His wisdom – "it truly IS more blessed [HAPPY!] to give than receive" (Jesus qtd in Acts 20:35)
 - v. Can give to TG
 - 1. Easiest online.
 - a. Can sign up for recurring giving
 - 2. Or via check/cash in that box.
 - vi. We're just about to start our 2019 budgeting work as an elder team
 - 1. And we largely base our 2019 ability of 2018 giving and especially recurring giving.
 - 2. Now would be a great time to take a next step!
- c. Lets actively dream together about Service Ministry ideas**
- i. Especially ones we could do together as a church, in many capacities
 - 1. Financially
 - 2. Time
 - 3. Energy, creativity
 - 4. Relational connections
 - 5. SO MANY WAYS TO SERVE THE NEEDY!!!
 - ii. Especially ones that could be smart financially
 - iii. Especially ones that could enable MORE good works
 - iv. Especially ones that would allow for high relational connect and followup
 - v. We're 6 mo in, sinking our roots in, grabbing the soil, drinking deep in the Word, learning to love**
 - vi. **What might TG be like in 2 years, 3 years, 10 years??** if we keep taking steps of faith as a body
 - 1. To value the ministry of the Word
 - 2. And to value ministries of service in our dear city?
 - vii. What Good Works might we be able to walk in if we kept taking steps of faith?**
 - viii. What if God provided a facility strategically located in our city in areas of opportunity
 - 1. Somewhere south of poyntz?
 - 2. That not only met our needs as a church
 - a. For CG
 - b. For office
 - c. For equipping spots, etc
 - 3. But also functioned as a beachhead of care and ministry to those in need
 - a. What if we had a great spot to host Common Table meals to the hungry
 - b. A spot to host subsidized childcare or preschool for lower income families
 - c. Spots to offer free life-skills equipping classes to those trying to better themselves and their horizons

- d. Mentorship opportunities for at risk kids who've never had an adult believe in them, never had someone tell them I love you, never been able to be safe in relationship
- 4. What if all of our LGs not only reached out to their neighbors, but invested together in the poorer areas of MHK?
- 5. What if we were able to partner with other black churches in the area in practicing the unifying power of the Gospel
 - a. Pushing against racism at a personal level, developing friendships, bridges of blessing
- 6. What if we had more resources to champion adoptions in a profound way,
 - a. Coming alongside families willing to adopt and shouldering the financial burden – completely
 - b. Letting them take that weight off their shoulders
 - c. Who else might be willing to welcome in a child with no one to love them, if the huge financial hurdles were removed???
- 7. What if our church gatherings and LIFE Groups were filled with diversity
 - a. What if we loved each other anyways
 - b. What if others noticed?
- 8. What if we gave until we felt it
 - a. What if it became fun
- 9. What if we saw God move
 - a. What if God's never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love flow through us and redeem lives
- 10. What if our city felt it
 - a. What if SoPo became a place of hope and peace.
 - b. What if Yuma became a place of light. In no small part, because we plugged in there.

ix. WHO KNOWS WHAT GOD MIGHT DO!?

- 1. What's a ministry idea that would get you excited about?
- 2. What's something YOU'D want to get involved in?

9. Q&A

10. Pray

CHOPPING BLOCK

11. Church and the tithe?

- a. **Listen to Ben's sermon: The Cross as the Giving Standard (NH Jan 2017)**
- b. Tithe not the NT rule for Church giving
 - i. No set it and forget it giving amt.
 - ii. Training wheels of Giving!
 - iii. Standard is now the Cross, loving, sacrificial generosity
 - iv. Giving until (and beyond where) you feel it!
 - v. FOR THE GOOD OF ANOTHER

12. Giving in light of GOSPEL OF GRACE

- a. Paul, to the Corinthians: urging them to give money to the church, specifically for the aid of poor Xians in the Jerusalem church
 - i. **2 Corinthians 8:8-9** ⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, **yet for your sake he became poor**, so that you by his poverty might become rich.
 - ii. 2 Cor 9:8, 10-11 ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ... ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.
- b. It's from Grace, modeling grace we've received
- c. FOR GOOD WORKS!
- d. SO THAT not only are the poor cared for, but that God is glorified!
- e. Blessed TO BE A BLESSING

13. In Ephesus at least, Paul references a Widows List

- a. Some enrolled in, others not!
- b. Likely not just destitute, old, good widows, but indicating they provided service ministries for the church
 - i. A type of benevolence payroll
- c. Not only were there not enough funds to enroll everyone, but practically, not good idea for young widows to commit themselves to this life when they could remarry
 - i. Relieves financial burden for church
 - ii. Also protects against dangers to young widows
 1. This reference to "busybodies" and wives tales was actually a specific reference to how the heresy he was combatting was spreading through bored, idle women
 - iii. In part teaching an ascetic lifestyle and forbidding marriage.
 1. Paul says, NO – its good to get remarried, especially if women get widowed young.

14. Leadership but not without accountability (Make it's own 3rd point??)

- a. Churches should choose, honor, and hold accountable GODLY LEADERS, who are charged with administering church funds well
- b. These leaders lead amongst a team of elders, all of whom have oversight of the churches finances.
- c. We're to honor our elders by not subjecting them to potshot, frivolous, unsubstantiated accusations
 - i. THIS HAPPENS, especially to elders
- d. But we ARE to hold them accountable when sin is evident and persists!
 - i. Public rebuking
 - ii. Fair, impartial, not biased against OR for elders

15. Taking a step back, Looking at how we're doing AS AMERICANS

- a. We are profoundly wealthy as an entire nation

- i. Versus rest of world
- b. Our poor are rich, And nearly all our rich don't think they are
 - i. What deception!
- c. Rather than harp on top 1%, lets talk about us average Americans
 - i. Some stats:
 - ii. 2017- Est med Household Income = \$50,698
 - 1. US = \$60,336
- d. Giving What We Can.org
 - i. If earning med household income for MHK (50,698) and were married w/ 2 kids
 - 1. ... you are in the richest 8.4% of the world's population
 - 2. Your income is more than 13 times the global average.
 - 3. If donated 10% to charity
 - a. ... you would still be in the richest 9.7% of the world's population ...
 - b. .. you'd still have more than 12 times the global average income...
 - ii. If you made that 50,698, and are single,
 - 1. In richest 1.2% of world
 - 2. More than 36 times global avg income
 - 3. If gave away 10%,
 - a. Still in top 1.6% of world
 - b. And 33x glob avg income!
 - iii. Poverty Level for family of 4 = 25,100/yr (2018)
 - 1. Half the MHK med HH income
 - 2. WITH THAT
 - 3. ... you are in the richest 17% of world!
 - a. 83 % of everyone else poorer than you
 - 4. Your income is more than 6 times the global average.
 - 5. If they donate 10%
 - a. .. you would still be in the richest 18.1%
 - i. Still richer than 82% of world!
 - b. And make more than 6x global avg!
 - iv. FPL individual
 - 1. \$12,140 for individuals
 - 2. Richest 18.8%
 - 3. 5x global avg
 - 4. With 10%
 - a. Still top 20.1%
 - v. More than 5x glob avg
- e. Let's redefine Rich more realistically historically and globally
 - i. If you had a choice of what to wear this morning
 - ii. If you drove to work in a car of ANY KIND OR CONDITION
 - iii. If you could drive through starbucks any time you wanted without really noticing in your budget
 - iv. If you had to pay income taxes in April
 - v. If you have access to quality healthcare
 - vi. If you have ANY money in the bank, at all.
- f. We're all pretty rich over here

- i. So how are we doing USING that wealth God's given us?
- ii. From *Passing the Plate* (2008)
- iii. General Americans:
 - 1. When Americans earned less money following the Great Depression, they gave more. When income went up, they began to give less of it away.
 - 2. "Americans who earn less than \$10,000 gave 2.3 percent of their income to religious organizations," Smith, Emerson, and Snell write, "whereas those who earn \$70,000 or more gave only 1.2 percent."
- iv. American Christians?
 - 1. While the actual percentages are slightly higher for Christians who regularly attend church, the pattern is similar. Households of committed Christians making less than \$12,500 per year give away roughly 7 percent of their income, a figure no other income bracket beats until incomes rise above \$90,000 (they give away 8.8 percent).
 - 2. More than one out of four American Protestants give away no money at all—"not even a token \$5 per year,"
 - 3. The median annual giving for an American Christian is actually \$200, just over half a percent of after-tax income. About 5 percent of American Christians provide 60 percent of the money churches and religious groups use to operate. (It's these people who skew the average.) "A small group of truly generous Christian givers," say *Passing the Plate's* authors, "are essentially 'covering' for the vast majority of Christians who give nothing or quite little."
- g. Soooooo, isn't this just another church begging for more money?**
 - i. No and Yes.
 - ii. No, its not a beg for more money in the way many think about it.
 - 1. God's blessed us right out of the gate, even without financial support structures often with church plants from denominations or parent churches.
 - 2. In many ways, we have our basics covered organizationally. We have money for all we need to be able to operate as an organization, to meet together, to invest in growing and equipping.
 - a. We're able to support 2 full time staff!!!
 - i. Sure, the Elder Team has some staffing goals for where we'd like to get as we're able
 - 1. Salary levels
 - 2. Staffing positions, etc
 - b. But I can honestly say we're grateful and well now
 - i. Especially considering we're just 6 mo into a church plant!
 - ii. So this isn't a poor pastor's plea.
 - c. AMEN
 - iii. But Yes, in that if we had more resources as a body, we'd be able to use them!
 - 1. Specifically in engaging with ministries of service and mercy.
 - 2. Churches need BOTH to be healthy, engaged long term
 - 3. We're committed to developing a robust, healthy value of BOTH aspects of ministry as a church!
 - a. And service ministries where TG has the most room to grow.
 - 4. Exciting opportunities to dream together,
 - a. Give together
 - b. Try together

- c. Experiment together
 - d. And discover Good Works that God's got planned for us to walk in
- h. Why should I give my charitable giving to my church? I just give it directly to relief organizations or other ministries...**
 - i. Another tough one!
 - ii. Certainly freedom here. Not specifically addressed in NT.
 - iii. Early church had no concept of individuals donation to needs
 - 1. Everything was seen thorough the collective family of the church
 - 2. INCLUDING THE USAGE OF FUNDS
 - a. Giving to God.
 - i. As an offering of gratitude
 - b. Through the local church
 - i. Administered by godly leadership
 - ii. Who were accountable first to God, and also to every member
 - iii. Takes inherent level of trust, and releasing of control
 - iv. Doesn't mean giving directly to aid organizations is bad. Its part of our social landscape
 - 1. There's tremendous good!
 - 2. But we also are likely influenced by our American CONSUMER INDIVIDUALISM mentality far more than we know
 - a. Here.
 - 3. Even in the church, our need for control over MY MONEY extends.
 - 4. We struggle to trust, struggle to follow leadership well.
 - a. I decide how my money should be used
 - b. I, by myself, decide
 - c. I'm not going to give to my church, they'll just spend it on rent or something.
 - i. I want to give where it's really needed!
 - d. If that's how little you trust your church's leadership, there's big problems!
 - i. Either you have chosen UNGODLY or UNQUALIFIED leaders,
 - ii. Or you may be coming face to face with your trust struggles
 - 1. Your fellowship struggles
 - 2. We all have them!
 - v. Yet often, leaders have far more perspective, information about needs, situations, God's leading for our church, than individuals do.
 - a. That's the hope!
 - 2. They're charged BEFORE GOD (and in sight of others) to use church funds strategically for Word and Service Ministries.
 - a. THAT'S WHY WE NEED GOOD LEADERS!
 - b. What if they had more to work with?
 - c. Together?
 - d. What if we were able to really focus in on specific opportunities, needs investments (including giving to other organizations!) and have a stronger impact?
 - e. Simple strategy: if you have \$100, which might be more effective, giving \$1 each to 100 ppl, or giving all of it to a specific needy person?
 - f. Concentrated effect!
 - g. Especially noticed with smaller churches, smaller budgets.

h. THAT'S US!

- vi. This isn't a clear answer, not sure there is one. But it sure raises some important questions for us to consider.
 - 1. And points toward potential ditches we're prone to as Americans.
- i. **Aren't there greater needs globally? How should we invest locally in light of great global needs?**
 - i. This is a tough one.
 - ii. No single answer.
 - iii. Both the beauty and the great work of stewardship!
 - iv. Certainly there are profound needs globally, in the church and in society
 - 1. Basic provision: food, clean water, shelter, health care
 - 2. Other struggles for social stability, economic opportunities, other basic freedoms from oppression, abuse
 - v. We in the wealthy, free American church should rightly see our opportunity (and responsibility) to be a part of these types of global care and relief work
 - 1. We've been given trillions...
 - 2. To quote Spider Man, with great power comes great responsibility
 - 3. We need to do more
 - a. We CAN do more
 - 4. Including cooperating with other Churches to meet bigger scale needs!
 - vi. But it would be yet another ditch in thinking that global needs TRUMP all local opportunities for good works
 - 1. This would be not only unlivable, but would risk misunderstanding the nature of Good Works
 - vii. And it redefines the entire category of needs to just physical needs.
 - 1. Needs are far greater than just physical needs
 - 2. We want to invest in the health of the WHOLE person
 - a. Emotionally
 - b. Relationally
 - c. SPIRITUALLY
 - 3. That means investment in care and support of people spiritually are vital good works too
 - a. Including Ministry of the Word, equipping, etc!
 - b. Our world is not only dying for food it's dying for TRUTH
 - c. People ultimately need the message of the truth of the Gospel to save their eternal souls
 - i. However in most cases, it's the hand of love in service to meet BASIC needs that wins an audience to meet their DEEPER needs.
 - 4. It's not cut and dry
 - a. Part of the journey
 - b. Constant judgement calls
 - c. We sense the Biblical call to generally work out in concentric circles of care.
 - i. Valuing especially those opportunities to build relationships that could bear the weight of truth
 - 5. We're constantly doing our best to sense where God is moving, and to jump in.
 - a. Balancing care within the Body with care for physical needs in your community, with concern for broader needs in your city, with the great sea of needs across the world.

6. Tallgrass is not called to meet all the world's needs.
 - a. We cant!
 - b. But we know the One who can!
 - c. But we can meet some!
 - i. Starting where we're at
 - d. God is God. We're his children. He's pieces all over the map!
 - i. He's saving the world
 - ii. And He's invited us to play an active part
 - e. Therein lies our rest AND our urgency!
 - i. Our next step of faith