

An apostolic preacher, who goes to the wilderness to seek the lost sheep, will be exposed to hunger and cold, and other inconveniences; he must therefore resign himself to God, depending on His providence for the necessities of life. If God had sent him, He was bound to support him. Anxiety therefore, was a double crime, as it insinuated a bad opinion of the Master who has employed him. Every missionary should make himself master of this subject.

*(Adam Clarke
Commentary)*

Jesus and the Apostles encouraged giving to God's work, too—giving cheerfully, generously, even sacrificially. But they did not require believers to obey the Old Testament laws on tithing.

Observe

Where were the disciples instructed to go and not go (vv. 5-6)?

What were the disciples instructed to do (vv. 7-8)?

What were they not allowed to take (vv. 9-10)?

4. How does this short study of the tithe compare or contrast with the way tithing is taught and practiced today?

Matthew 10:5-14

DISCIPLES' EXAMPLE

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; ¹⁰take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.¹¹"Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. ¹²As you enter the home, give it your greeting.¹³If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.

Reflect

1. What are your observations of this passage?
2. Why do you think the disciples were told to leave their money and extra possessions instead of using them or selling them to finance their ministry trip?
3. Describe "some worthy person" (vv. 11-14). How could the disciples recognize this worthy person?
4. List one or two lessons the disciples may have learned from this experience.
5. How does this passage relate to ministry partner development?
6. Think of a situation in which you realized you had to be totally dependent on God. Describe the situation, how you felt, and what you learned about trusting God. How will these lessons help you in your fund development?

Luke 8:1-3

JESUS' EXAMPLE

¹After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager [steward] of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Reflect

1. What reflections do you have about the members of Jesus' "ministry team"?
2. Why do you think these women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna the wife of Cuza, Susanna, and others) followed and supported Jesus?
3. Did Jesus need gifts of support? Why do you think Jesus accepted the support of the people following Him?
4. Did Jesus ask for support?
5. What are the possible implications for you accepting support from others?

Acts 18:1-5

TENTMAKING EXAMPLE

¹After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Tents. The Israelites did not dwell in houses until their return from Egypt. Their tents, in material, form, and furniture, no doubt resembled the tents of the present Bedouin, consisting sometimes of plaited mats, but generally of cloth coverings, either of goat hair, or woven from yarn. The tent is divided into two rooms, separated by a caret partition drawn across the middle of the tent and fastened to the three middle posts. The manufacture of tents formed a regular trade, at which Paul occasionally labored, especially in connection with Aquila.

(New Unger's Bible Dictionary)

Observe

Why did Paul make tents (v. 3)?

When and why did he stop making tents (v. 5)?

Observe

Describe Paul's dazzling vision (v. 20).

What was Paul asking for (v. 24)?

Notice the simple and passionate clarity of Paul's statement. Review your 25-word calling on page 16. What changes would you make to your statement?

Reflect

1. "Tentmaking" today usually refers to a missionary earning part or all of his/her income from a job or business rather than through donors' gifts. Give an example of what tentmaking may look like in contemporary contexts.
2. List some reasons to
 - a. combine tentmaking and ministry.
 - b. avoid tentmaking as a missionary.
3. If a missionary chooses tentmaking, how could he/she explain this to prospective giving partners and not sacrifice fund development?

Romans 15:20-24

PERSONAL APPEAL EXAMPLE

²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. ²³But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, ²⁴I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Reflect

1. What are your observations of this passage?
2. Paul's calling (verse 21) was rooted in Isa. 52:15, "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." Why would this passage have appealed to Paul's audience—the believers in Rome?
3. How did Paul deepen his relationship and partnership with his "donors" over time?
4. Is there a passage that is foundational to your calling? If so, record it below and describe why it is important to you.

Summary

1. God has funded His work in a wide variety of ways. Use the chart below to record your key observations of the different examples we've considered. List potential applications for your own fund development.

	Key observations	Potential applications
Levitical		
Disciples		
Jesus		
Tentmaking		
Personal Appeal		

2. What stands out to you or means the most to you about these examples of support?
3. In what ways will the variety of these biblical examples impact your approach to your ministry partner development?

Explore Feelings

We may wonder if fund development is biblical for Christian workers. In each statement below, circle the option(s) that *most honestly describe how you sometimes feel*.

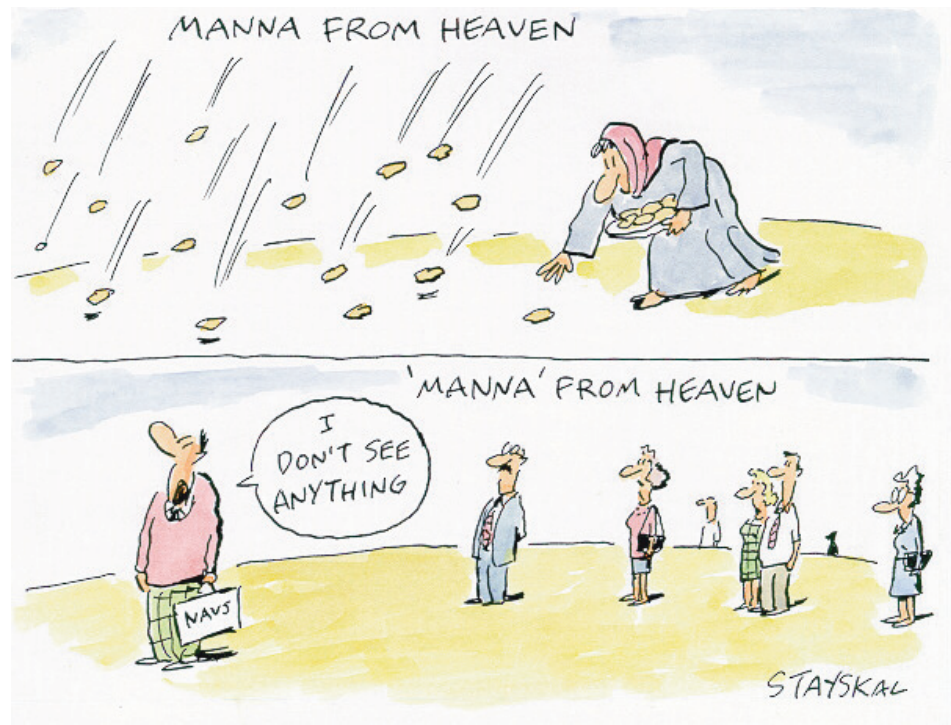
- Ministry partner development *is / is not* biblical.
- People in ministry *should / should not have to* support themselves with another job.
- In ministry partner development, I feel like I'm "*begging*" from donors / I'm *inviting donors* to partner with me.
- I feel *guilty / free* asking for money *because / even though* some people are needier than I am.
- It feels *wrong / exciting* to be paid for doing something I love.
- I *have questions / am enthusiastic* about the model of those in full-time ministry being supported by the people of God.

Scriptural Truth: God commands appropriate compensation for Kingdom workers, so the Bible models those in full-time ministry being supported by the people of God.

Express the key thought in each verse or passage.

Luke 10:7	Galatians 6:6
1 Corinthians 9:1-14	1 Samuel 30:7-10, 21-25
2 Corinthians 15:58	1 Timothy 5:17-18

Summarize your convictions about being supported in ministry by others.



Conclude

Scripture Memory. Ask a friend to check you on your memorization of Romans 8:32. Also explain to him/her what this verse means to you. (And keep reviewing it daily!)

Community (optional). Contact another missionary from your list and ask him or her to share a “war story” about ministry partner development—perhaps a big blessing or surprise, worst mistake, most creative appeal, etc.