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Faith vs. Finances

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Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:

"Father, uphold the holiness of your name.

Bring in your kingdom. **3** Give us the bread we need for today.

4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us. And don't lead us into temptation."

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Imagine that one of you has a friend, and you go to that friend in the middle of the night.

Imagine saying, 'Friend, loan me three loaves of bread **6** because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.'

7 Imagine further that he answers from within the house, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up to give

you anything.' **8** I assure you, even if he wouldn't get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his brashness.

9 So I say to you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened."

11 "Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? **12** If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Exodus 16: 4-12

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I'm going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I'll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction. **5** On the sixth day,

when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

7 And in the morning you will see the Lord's glorious presence, because your complaints against the Lord have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?" **8** Moses continued, "The Lord

will give you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the Lord heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren't against us but against the Lord."

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole Israelite community, 'Come near to the Lord, because he's heard your complaints.'" **10** As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

11 The Lord spoke to Moses, **12** "I've heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

3 nuggets from my "money story"

- Faith is the cardinal _____ of heavenly transactions.
- It takes a _____ to foster wholesomeness
- The truest significance of our _____ isn't in its vastness but in the _____ it makes.

For your Reflection

1. Which is easier for you to be— a beneficiary (someone who receives) or benefactor (someone who gives?) Why do you think this is?
2. This passage in Exodus was one of the Hebrew people's first powerful memories. Think of your first memory of money as child. Ask yourself- *what did I learn from this? How did I respond? How do I act now that hearkens back to this learning?*
3. Think of your first memory of money in the church. Ask yourself the same questions from above.
4. When do we talk about money in the Church? When are we silent about money in the Church? What about at Wellspring? What might be one of God's invitations for you this Lenten series as we move through Luke and through our money stories as well?
5. Pray— "God of Jubilee, upend my internal narratives and remind me of my worth and security. Gather me into your holy imagination of what is possible. Invite me into a new way of being. In your Son Jesus' name, Amen."