

## A Future that's Bigger Than the Past, Pt. 2: "From Scarcity to Abundance"

*Theme: The Church must shift from scarcity-based giving habits to a practical theology of abundance.*

- I. Scriptural (NT) financial models of discipleship:
  - A. Mendicant model
    - 1. Rich Young Ruler (see Mark 10:21)
    - 2. Practiced by the Franciscans (St. Francis of Assisi renounced all property)
  - B. Acts 2 model
    - 1. The new "economy" of the early church (see Acts 2:42-47)
    - 2. Practiced by the Benedictines
- II. Two Reformation financial models:
  - A. Benefactor model
    - 1. Pro: provides support for flourishing of more challenging forms of discipleship
    - 2. Con: reinforces class hierarchy; assumes non-church goers still value the church
  - B. Stewardship model
    - 1. Pro: allows pairing of generosity with a more conventional (bourgeois) vocation
    - 2. Con: shifts power to most affluent congregation members
  - C. Wells contends that these models "have run their course" (61), a new model is needed
- III. Theology for a New Model
  - A. Wells' description of church as the "kingdom of God" highlights thriving, diverse community
    - 1. St-Martins welcome video, "Being with God on the edge"
    - 2. *Doing for / Being for / Doing with / **Being with***
  - B. Being with is the essence of the gospel, "God *with* us."
  - C. "God gives us the abundance of the kingdom to renew the poverty of the church" (70).
  - D. St-Martin-in-the-fields was renewed by creatively addressing financial adversity
  - E. "...a community of hope, reimagining church and society through culture, charity, commerce, and congregational life
- IV. A Theology for FBCA's New Model
  - A. "...modeling in social relations the activities and company the church anticipates in heaven" (71).
  - B. "Beautiful Belonging" as a vision of Revelation 21
    - 1. The new city is characterized by both beauty and belonging
    - 2. The city has walls with open gates.
    - 3. The New Jerusalem calls forth and appreciates a wide range of people and their gifts
- V. A Sacred Place for Everyone
  - A. It's not just the church that needs new models (government, institutions no longer trusted)
  - B. Harnessing FBCA and Asheville's gifts for the sake of a thriving community