

This Lord's day has been a good one in that I feel like I've been learning small lessons throughout the day. God has been revealing answers to questions I've had through small observations made. He has also been confirming many decisions I've made recently, and it has left me with a great sense of peace. My three-hour Sunday afternoon nap didn't hurt either.

The biblical lessons from my morning connect group and then this morning's sermon were timely and spoke to my heart. My apologetics class this evening, as expected, taught me so much. I find myself taking notes as if I were going to be tested and graded on what I'm able to retain. All I know is what I am learning is definitely going to help when I am asked those hard questions about why I believe what I do.

Tonight's lesson was about 'Fine-Tuning the Universe,' apparently a phrase and subject well known by scientists and physicists. Simply, it includes three possibilities on how the universe came to be: 1-Chance, 2-Necessity, 3-Design. The conclusion clearly supports creation by design but was not presented as another theory to force one to believe in God. Even well-known atheists expressed their concern that 'fine-tuning' and mathematics supports the possibility of a grand designer. Our teacher described math as the 'language of God.'

Our lesson about God's use of mathematics in creation made me giggle a bit. Recently, my good friend and I had a conversation on the miracle of God's math, as understood by us who are not scientists. We agreed that the math of the world and God's math are often very different.

For me, I cannot explain how I'm able to manage what I have, except for the grace of God. I made the decision to tithe on my income the moment my ex-husband and I had separate bank accounts. I don't say this as a matter of pride, but as something I felt compelled to do, to honor God with all that is already his anyway. Never have I regretted that decision, and the returns on my trusting God with all that I have, are still coming back to me ten-fold. The miracles I've seen God do with money and in caring for me and my grandsons simply defies logic.

This is what I mean by God's math, vs. the world's math. Scripture does support the tithe, in both the Old and New Testament, but Jesus was also clear about being cheerful in our giving. If we have white knuckles from squeezing our money so tightly, God doesn't want it. It's all his anyway, but he wants our hearts, our trust, and our love, more than money.

My friend shared with me a similar story. She works for a large church and runs a women's ministry that must maintain a strict budget. She said the church budget committee questioned her about the status of the funds that were in her ministry's account. Their concern wasn't about over-spending. Not only was her budgeted amount still in the account, but there was a surplus amount as well as the original budget. In unison, she, and I both exclaimed, "God's Math!" and we shared a great laugh together.

Whatever we give to God with a pure heart comes back to us exponentially higher, through his love, mercy, and his desire to lavish upon us blessings upon blessings. This kind of math makes no sense to the world, but I have seen it with my own eyes, in my own life. I will leave those impossible mathematic equations to the experts. I prefer the simpler side of math, with a child-like faith. Two plus two will always equal four. That is unless God chooses to change the formula.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

***"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."***

(Matthew 6:33 NLT)