

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Sincerely His” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for July 2, 2017. The lesson is found on page 29 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



In this day and age, when even the lesser-known and less-skilled professional sports players are millionaires, and when thanking God for their “blessings” has become common in post-game or pre-game or during-game interviews even though their behavior off the field or court or pitch might tell a different story, it seems unusual to find an athlete who is sincerely living out his or her beliefs.

So, when it was announced this past week that quarterback Derek Carr has come to an agreement on a contract extension with the Oakland Raiders that will make him the highest-paid player in the NFL, with \$125 million to be paid to him over five years, it was interesting to hear about his next steps.

When asked what he wanted to do first after the contract was signed, he jokingly answered that he wanted some Chick-Fil-A, if his trainer would allow it. He then said he’d first be giving his tithe, just as he had always done. (A look at the derekcarrqb.com website reveals his statement of faith: “I am first and foremost a follower of Jesus Christ.”) Then after that, he’d try to buy his wife something, if she would let him—he noted that she still clips coupons and hunts for bargains.

His voice seemed full of emotion as he looked around at all the reporters and remarked how glad he was to think how this money, placed in his hands and then freely given, would be able to do good things for so many people around the world.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Tithing is a step of faith—a discipline performed by those who sincerely love God and want to serve Him. Why do you think so many people have a hard time with this step? Would it be harder or easier for you to tithe if your income was suddenly greatly increased? Why?

It was another step of faith for Derek Carr to announce his plan for his money. Many of his fellow NFL players might consider it foolish for him to give away so much money. Why do you think Derek Carr wanted to make a point of telling his plan for his funds?

Do you think Christians who are in very public positions have a greater responsibility to reveal their steps of faith? Why or why not?

Is it easy for you to know when a person is sincere or insincere? How do you distinguish the difference? Today we’ll look at an account in Matthew to find out Jesus’ attitude toward insincerity.