



**GIVING: STEWARDSHIP AND
GENEROSITY AS A WAY OF LIFE**

Giving: Stewardship and Generosity as a Way of Life

Key Terms:

- **Preeminence:** To be first.
- **Stewardship:** Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the furtherance of His mission.
- **Talent:** A certain weight; a coin or rather sum of money.
- **Generosity:** Willingness and liberality in giving away one's money, time, etc.
- **Sacrifice:** To go without something that is good in order to give to a need or cause.
- **Offering:** Anything extra that you give beyond the tithe.
- **Tithe:** A tithe is a portion (10%) of your income given as an offering to your local church.

2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING

When Jesus commissioned the disciples to go and teach all nations, He told them to teach others, "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The topic of money and giving is part of this. A major theme of the Bible is giving, sacrifice, and generosity. In order to be a disciple and follow Jesus, then we must make these things part of our Christian life. This topic has a very sensitive because so often it has been the center of controversy. This happens when we don't approach this from a Biblical perspective. Jesus is our ultimate example of giving because He gave us His life and held nothing back. Giving should not be an obligation, but a blessing and a normal part of the Christians life!

Questions being answered tonight:

- Why is this such a sensitive topic?
- What is biblical stewardship?
- What is the preeminence of God?
- Is the tithe still a thing?
- What does the New Testament say about giving?
- What if I can't afford to give?
- Where can I find financial help?

Why is this such a Sensitive Topic?

- People get nervous when the pastor or church starts to talk about money.

*1 Timothy 6:10 "For the **love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

- Money is not bad, it just becomes an issue when it becomes our focus!
- When money becomes the priority in our lives, then everything gets off.
- If money is the focus or priority in a church, then everything else gets off.

Why should this not be a sensitive topic? Because it is in the Bible!

- There are roughly 2,000 Bible verses about money and possessions.
- Jesus spoke about money roughly 15% of his preaching.
- 11 out of 39 parables were about money.

There is lots of debate and opinions when it comes to money and the church, but the big question is:

Why do we give?

- Pleasing God is the focus.
- Reaching people is the focus.

What is Biblical Stewardship?

- This is the big picture of this topic.

Everything belongs to God

***Psalms 50:12** “If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.”*

- If we don't start with this, then this subject does not make sense.
- It is not, “my life, my money”.
- It all belongs to God!

Jesus taught us Biblical stewardship through the story of the talents.

***Matthew 25:21a** “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:”*

- **Question:** What was, “well done?”

***Matthew 25:21** “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

- “Well done” means that you were faithful with what God gave you.

***Matthew 25:14** “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. **15** And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. **16** Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. **17** And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. **18** But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. **19** After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. **20** And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. **21** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. **22** He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. **23** His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. **24** Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew*

thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:"

- Notice: It says, "His lord".
- Lord – Master – owner and ruler of our lives.
- Jesus is the Master and we are the servants.

We are managers (stewards) of God's blessings

Matthew 25:14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

- Talent: a certain weight (and thence a coin or rather sum of money) or "talent"
- Talent Represented wealth
- Represents what we have

We are to use what God has given us for His mission.

- We have a responsibility with our blessings.

Matthew 25:16 *"Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money."*

- Notice what was going on...
- They took what their master had given them and....
 - They invested it.
 - They produced a return that pleased their master.

Luke 12:48 *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."*

1 Corinthians 4:2 *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

We must use our money and all that we have for the glory of God

- Take care of our families
- Pay our bills
- Help others
- Support God's plan and mission for the church
- What were the different results? "Well done" vs. "Thou wicked and slothful servant"

What is the Preeminence of God?

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

- Preeminence - to be first
- When something comes first, it is a priority
 - It is most important
 - It shows rank and respect

Preeminence - God is to be first in all things.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

God declares His preeminence all throughout the Bible

- First book, first chapter:

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God....”

- Last book, first chapter:

Revelation 1:8a I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...

- Last book, last chapter:

Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

- **GOD IS FIRST!**
- IN everything
- He will never be second!

We are to live out His preeminence in our lives

Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”

- Why is Able mentioned in the chapter about faith in the Hebrews?
- **Question:** Why was God not pleased with Cain’s offering?

Genesis 4:2 “And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:”

- **Answer:** Abel gave the FIRST of His flock.
- He gave the first lamb, not knowing if there would be more.
- Cain gave OF the fruit of the ground.

- Same thing with the story of Abraham.
- God promised him that he would be the father of a great nation.

Genesis 22:2 *“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”*

- What was God teaching Abraham in this story?
- He was to put God first
- He was give his first son back to God before God will bless him with more

There is ONLY one place that He belongs in every area of our LIVES – FIRST!

There is only way that our lives work and are blessed – IF GOD IS FIRST

- God’s Question to us: “Where do I rank in your life?”
- Does He come first?
 - In your time?
 - In your abilities?
 - In your finances?
- Or does He get the leftovers?

What About Tithing?

Tithing is a Biblical teaching

- Tithe: A tithe is a portion (10%) of your income given as an offering to your local church.
- It started in Genesis 14 with Abraham.
- Malachi ends the Old Testament about giving and tithing.

Malachi 3:8 *“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”*

The reason for the tithe.

The tithe was a requirement of the Law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised to the tabernacle/temple (Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 14:24; 2 Chronicles 31:5). In fact, the Old Testament Law required multiple tithes—one for the Levites, one for the use of the temple and the feasts, and one for the poor of the land—which would have pushed the total to around 23.3 percent. Some understand the Old Testament tithe as a method of taxation to provide for the needs of the priests and Levites in the sacrificial system.

- We don’t debate if this is in the Bible, we debate if this is still required for the New Testament church
- We get into debates about 10%
- Old testament vs. New Testament
- Law vs. Grace

- Why? Because the New Testament does not emphasize or command the tithe like the Old Testament.

What was the purpose of the tithe?

- It was a spiritual discipline to put God first in their finances.
- It was God's people giving to meet the needs for the work of God.
- Question: Have either of these things changed?

What does the New Testament teach us about giving?

1. We are to give to the Lord through the church.

1 Corinthians 16:1 *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*

- Who should give? The saints (the saved).
- Where should we give? The church.
- This was an instruction to the members of the local church.
- Instructions concerning regular and consistent giving.

2. We are to give from the heart.

Matthew 23:23 *"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."*

- What was Jesus addressing?
- Jesus was dealing with their hearts
- They were checking boxes rather than living and doing it by faith

Matthew 6:21 *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

- You invest in what you love
- You give to what you love

3. We are to give and live sacrificially

- Sacrifice is a principle throughout the Bible

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

- Sacrifice: To go without something that is good in order to give to a need or cause
- Jesus gave His life for us!
- He held nothing back!

This principle is given to us to live out as well

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Not your money, but your life!

Mark 12:42 “And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”

What Does This All Mean for Us?

We are to live and give generously.

- Generosity: Willingness and liberality in giving away one's money, time, etc.
- Generosity happens when we live out the character of Jesus Christ.

The tithe was the training wheels for giving generously.

- We debate about a percentage.
- God brought it to another level and made it all sacrifice and generosity.

Acts 2:45 “And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”

2 Corinthians 9:6 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

- You reap what you sow.

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. **For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**”

Matthew 5:41 “And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”

Matthew 5:40 “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.”

- We are to live out a life of generosity!
- Because Generosity is what Jesus lived to change the world!

God blesses generosity and sacrificial giving

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

“as he purposed in his heart” – We give because we love God!

- Not grudgingly
- Not of “necessity” or because you “have” to

God LOVES a cheerful giver!!!

2 Corinthians 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it shall be given unto you; **good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over,** shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

We are to worship God through our giving

Luke 7:37 “And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.”

- Jesus responds that this is an example for other to follow

Matthew 26:13 “Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.”

What if I Can’t Afford to Give?

Start by faith

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

- If you give nothing, start by giving something.
- If you give at random, start by giving consistently.
- If you give consistently, live generously!

Take steps and faith and watch God bless!

- Where can I find financial help?
- Sign up for Financial Peace University for the Fall Season

Group Discussion Questions

As a group, read the following questions and discuss. Be sure to give everyone an opportunity to answer.

- What verse mentioned tonight was the most helpful for you? Was there anything that stood out to you to be encouraging, eye-opening, or helpful?
- How can the group pray for you?