

## Sermon Discussion - 7 May 2023

Read Mark 12:41-44; Matthew 23:23; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 2 Corinthians 8:7 together.

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

If you had two minutes to evacuate your home, excluding people and pets, what would you take?

Our relationship with money and possessions is worth our examination because our relationship with material possessions always has spiritual implications. What are some ways you've seen this truth in your own experience?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

In the sermon, we discussed "Why We Give." Our generosity as believers is much more than an annual fundraiser. It's a lifestyle. We wouldn't be His people, and He would not be our God if He had not asked us to give. He's a giving God, and we're generous people. By sharing our resources, we excel in another way to live like Jesus.

- How does giving offer our heart protection against greed and materialism?
- When you think of worship, does giving enter into your mind? Why or why not? How can giving be an act of worship?
- Has giving been a way of praising and worshiping God for you personally? If so, how has it brought you closer to God?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

Giving our tithes and offerings reflects a grateful heart that wants to give back to God a portion of what He has given us; in reality, what is already His. This is our opportunity to show God that He is first in our lives.

1. What is your biggest motivation for giving?
2. Has your view on giving vs. receiving changed over the years? Explain.
3. What are your fears when it comes to giving? (think outside of just financial giving)

4. What types of blessings have you seen come from tithing? Why do you think God says to test Him in this (Malachi 3:8-10)? Have you tested Him in this? What have been the results?
5. Giving is a reminder that we are to be good managers of what God has blessed us with. What happens when we start acting like “owners” instead of “managers”?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Are you willing to sit before God and ask Him to lead you in your giving? Spend some time this week doing just that.
- Are you willing to trust Him and take the next step in your giving journey? Pray and discuss with a close friend what that next step may be.
- Try memorising 2 Corinthians 8:7.  
*“But since you excel in everything- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you- see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?