



Part 1: *Giving to the Cause of the Gospel*

Part 2: **Spending Less to Give More**

Part 3: *Working as Worship*

INTRODUCTION – Why Does God Want Us to Give?

1. Giving is at the heart of the Gospel...
Ephesians 5:2; John 3:16; Philippians 2:1-11
2. God wants our hearts and we attach our hearts to what we own.
Numbers 18:26; Malachi 3:7-12
3. Giving helps free us from the myth that money (rather than Unconditional Love) can meet psychological needs.
Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

DINE IN – Bible Principles for Giving

1. God owns it. We manage it.
2. Tithing is baby steps. Radical generosity is the goal.
Malachi 3:7-12 VS Acts 4:32-35
3. Cultivating contentment is a spiritual discipline.
Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34; Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5
4. Money and possessions should be used to reconcile relationships.
Luke 16:9
5. Giving should be a joy, not a burden.
Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:7

TAKE OUT #1 – Digging Out Of Debt

- a. If you have an unpaid balance on your credit cards, stop using them until the balance is paid in full.
- b. Buy with credit only those things that appreciate in value (e.g., a house).
- c. If you buy a car on credit, at least pay it off before selling or trading in.

TAKE OUT #2 – Shopping Like a Christ-follower

- a. INVITE God into the moment.
- b. ASK whether this purchase will enrich or replace your relationships.
- c. DELAY purchasing for at least a day on newly discovered purchases.
- d. TALK about your shopping habits and specific purchases with others.

TAKE OUT #3 – Getting Financial Help

Mennonite Foundation Financial Planning Seminars...

- October 4 – Oakville & Brampton
- October 12 – Kitchener
- October 16 – Parry Sound & Ottawa
- October 19 – West & East Hamilton
- October 21 – Uptown & Downtown Toronto

TAKE OUT #4 – Stewardship is About More than Money

1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10

CONCLUSION – Taking a Vow of Generosity

Some Catholics take a vow of poverty.
Christ-followers are called to take a vow of generosity.

As one desires to follow Jesus, I vow to align my financial and relational habits with the priorities of Christ.

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Remember last week? Talk about ways you are becoming more intentional about your spending habits.
2. Brainstorm... Make a list of things that enrich your life that can't be bought with money. How does cultivating an attitude of thanksgiving for these things help us live counter-culturally in our consumption-oriented society?
3. Have you ever struggled with too much debt or over-use of your credit card? Were you able to recover your balance? If so, how?

Look to the Book...

4. Read **Malachi 3:7-12** and **Acts 4:32-35**. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What should be a Christian's relationship to the practice of tithing today? c) Why do you think we so readily attach our hearts to our possessions? d) How can regular giving free us from our unhealthy attachment to possessions? e) In Acts, Christ-followers gave their donations centrally to the church leadership for them to distribute. What are the advantages/disadvantages of giving to the church rather than directly to needs we identify around us?
5. Read the passages about cultivating contentment in the Biblical Principles section, then talk about specific practices that have helped or might help foster contentment in your life.

So What?...

6. Brainstorm what steps you can take to deliberately diminish the influence of our consumer culture in your life (e.g., toss all mail advertising directly into recycling or put a "No Bulk Mail Please" sign on your mailbox). List as many as you can, then talk about which you can commit to acting on this week.
7. What purchases do you tend to make that should be decreased in order to better align your life with the principle of radical generosity? What changes do you intend to make this week?

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching