

*“Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver” (1 Chronicles 29:3, NKJV)*

- David is preparing money and resources for the temple that his son Solomon would build
- David gave up and above what he had already given
- King David regularly offered extravagant gifts unto the Lord

David understood that if he was going to give something to God, it needed to be something that cost him something or it wasn't a sacrifice at all – (2 Samuel 24:22, 24–25, NKJV)

*“Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.”*

*(1 Chronicles 29:6, NKJV)*

- The people responded to David's call, and they gave upwards of 400 M (Today currency)

*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

*(Matthew 6:21, NKJV)*

- Jesus' teaching is quite clear
- What a person does with their money reveals what's on the inside of their heart

God is a giving, generous God, and wherever He is working in people's hearts, their hearts burn with a desire to give

Every person who desires to be like Him begins to flow in a spirit of generosity

*“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.” (Acts 2:44–45, NKJV)*

When hearts come alive with the fresh fire of God, one manifestation of that divine fire is the desire to open up wallets and purses

- Stingy hearts are closed hearts
- Open hearts are generous
- This is what we see in the Early Church
- It's what God still expects today!

*“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.” (Acts 4:33–35, NKJV)*

- When people began to be generous with God and each other, God became generous to them
- Signs and wonders erupted
- Generosity ignited a cycle of blessing and power

## God Rewards Good Stewardship

### Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- God is a rewarder
- God *rewards* faithful living according to His principles

### 1 Corinthians 3:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

The Bible is clear that we are not saved by good works but we are saved for good works

### Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- We must distinguish between belief and behavior
- Our belief determines where we will spend eternity
- Our behavior determines how
- God is going to reward us for our behavior or our good works

God not only rewards us in eternity but in this life as well

### Mark 10:29–30 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive a hundredfold **now in this time**—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—**and in the age to come**, eternal life.

- God is going to reward us, not only in the age to come but now in this time as well

Just before the parable of the talents, Jesus is talking about His unexpected return

### Matthew 24:45–47 (NKJV)

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? <sup>46</sup> Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. <sup>47</sup> Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

- Who is that faithful and wise servant?
- Jesus is still asking that question today
- When He returns, he wants to find us doing a good job with the things He has entrusted to us

## Where Is Your Heart?

### Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### Luke 16:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you be faithful in the true riches?

- God uses money to test our hearts
- Money tests stewardship and trustworthiness
- We are stewards of the money we are given
- God sees the purchases we make every day
- Money goes up and down – God stays the same
- Money is more than just a means of buying things
- “Where your treasure is” – **Matthew 6:21**

## God Wants to Bless Us with More

### Genesis 12:2 (NKJV) Speaking to Abraham

<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

- God desired to bless Abraham so he could be a blessing to others
- The same is true for you and me today

## 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- God wants to bless us so we are ready to do every good work!
- Having an abundance is only possible when we are good stewards of the blessings God has given us

We must never allow the reward to be our primary motive to give

- Yet, we cannot ignore the fact that God wants to reward us

When we allow God to work in our hearts, our primary motivation becomes giving for the sheer joy of giving

- Helping for the sheer satisfaction of helping
- When we live this way, we are imitating our Father God

Paul was about to send a couple of helpers to the Corinthians Church to collect a special offering for the suffering Macedonian Church

## 2 Corinthians 9 – *My paraphrase*

- *He says: you said you wanted to give an offering*
- *I've been bragging about your generosity*
- *Don't embarrass yourselves, and me, follow through!*
- *Paul is commending them for their willingness to give and takes the opportunity to teach on giving*

## 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NKJV) The Cheerful Giver

<sup>6</sup> But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

- These people were already givers
- They were about to make a sacrificial offering
- Sow sparingly – reap sparingly
- Sow bountifully – reap bountifully

## Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

- Again, our motivation is not reward
- The Spirit of God wants to free us from the fear of giving, showing us that God is a rewarder
- God wants us to give as we purpose in our hearts
- When we give “in secret” He rewards “openly”  
– **Matthew 6**

## 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- You are the only person who can decide your level of giving
- It's between you and the Spirit of God

## 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God is not looking for tithes, offerings, and gifts that are given *“reluctantly or under compulsion”*

- The blessed life is an overflow of cheerful giving
- There is a “Joy” in giving!

The only way to become a cheerful giver is for God to do a work in your heart

- We need reconciliation with God and our finances

It comes down to the heart

- Remember: God is *able* to make *all grace* abound
- How often? – Always!

When we give cheerfully God is able to make all grace abound towards us, so we always have abundance so that we never have need



## Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- There is a difference between *wants* and *needs*
- God doesn't promise to meet every passing whim or fancy
- Money is never our sufficiency, God is!
- There is a level beyond sufficiency – Abundance!
- We will be tested at this level

It's one thing to have just enough to meet your needs, but the real heart test comes when we get a little extra

- When I get a little extra, do I pay down debt or buy a new rifle or set of golf clubs?
- We are tested with *need* as we trust God for our sufficiency
- We are tested with *greed* when we move into the area of abundance
- When we pass this test, we can now move into the highest use of money, *seed*

How do you view money?

- Do you see it as something to meet your *need*?
- Do you see it as something to satisfy your *greed*?
- Or do you see it as God giving you *seed*?

I believe there is a “sweet spot” that God wants us all to live

### Proverbs 30:8–9 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; <sup>9</sup> Lest I be full and deny *You*, and say, “Who *is* the LORD?” Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.

- Don’t allow me to have a need or to be tempted with greed, that’s wisdom
- Can God meet your need without money?

### 1 Kings 17:6 (NKJV) God provides for Elijah

<sup>6</sup> The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

- God didn’t need money to provide, He just needed a couple of ravens
- They didn’t just bring him bread, they brought him steak

He also brought him a cake

### 1 Kings 19:5–6, 8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.” <sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

<sup>8</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

## 2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, <sup>11</sup> while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

- There is a proper order
- God doesn't supply seed to the keeper

When you think that someone else is a giver because they have money; You've got it backward

- That guy has money because he's a giver
- Some people want God to bless them but they won't get their hearts right
- God will multiply the seed you *have* sown
- You will always *reap* more than you *sow* when your heart is right about finances and giving

## Psalms 126:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup> He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

- We are not talking about perfection in your finances
- We are talking about a heart that is reconciled to God's principles of stewardship, tithing, giving, sowing, and reaping

## Tithes – Offerings – Extravagant Offerings

### John 12:1–8 (NKJV)

**12** Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. <sup>4</sup> But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

- What a graphic contrast in two hearts towards giving
  - The heart of Mary
  - The heart of Judas
- An equivalent of an entire years' worth of wages
- Imagine taking your gross annual income, buying a bottle of perfume, and then emptying it on someone's feet
- It is all gone – you will never get it back!
- Why did Mary do this?
- Why did it bother Judas so much?
- Hint: it's not about the money

Wherever you find generosity you will find selfishness battling for control

- Each one of us needs to take a deep, hard inward look
- Am I generous or am I selfish?
- Judas didn't care about the poor
- He used to take what was in the box – **John 12:6**
- Judas pretended to care about others while thinking only about himself
- A spirit of envy, not compassion prompted his comment

Contemporary envious remarks:

- *“How could anyone in good conscience drive a car that expensive?”*
- *“She sure could have helped a lot of people for what she spent on that coat.”*

The “Money Box” was the “Offering Box”

- Jesus was an itinerate preacher
- People supported Him and the disciples – **Luke 8:1-3**
- How could anyone do that?
- People rob God all the time – **Malachi 3:8**
- Hey, don't blow that money on a building or the Pastor
- Give it to the poor
- Selfishness tries to get the focus off self by pointing out the “extravagance” of others

Remember Generosity is not about the amount but the heart

**Luke 21:1–3 (NKJV)**

**21** And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, <sup>2</sup> and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. <sup>3</sup> So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;

- A generous heart stems from a grateful heart
- Every gift has a purpose
- Don’t underestimate the difference you can make

Mary was able to anoint Jesus’ body for burial

**Mark 14:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

- When we give obediently and extravagantly at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we have no idea the real significance of the gift
- God knows
- God has a purpose for every gift and he will reward

**Matthew 26:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

We have been so grateful to the Lord for the facility we have been meeting in for the last nine years

- We are happy to say that we have now come to an agreement with Faith Reformed Church on the purchase price of the property
- They have accepted our offer of \$475,000 and working on obtaining financing for 80% of that

We are asking you to consider a two-year commitment to continue to fund the ministry of the Church, as well as a one-time miracle offering for the down payment of the loan

Over the past nine years, we have seen hundreds come to Christ and more than 400 people decided to follow the Lord in baptism

- Many of those continue to attend and serve in ministry here in the church
- Our current membership is about 250 with 200 attending services regularly

We have also donated more than 12% of our income to missionaries and organizations outside of our 4 walls

Because of you we have been able to preach the Gospel to tens of thousands around the world, fund disaster relief, feed the hungry, help young girls caught in sex trafficking, and help those considering abortion find alternative solutions

- We currently support 15 Missionaries and organizations globally, monthly
- Over the past nine years, we have given upwards of \$94,000 in local outreach and \$200,000 globally.