



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- Malachi 3:8-12; Gal. 6:6-7
- 2 Cor. 9:6-8; Luke 6:38
- 1 Cor. 9:11-14; 1 Tim. 5:17
- Romans 13:6-7
- Matthew 19:22; 6:24

SURRENDER MY GIVING:

GOD'S RESOURCES

- Sharing Resources
- A Life Lesson on Money
- Paying Tribute
- Difficulty Giving

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation.” Malachi 3:8-9

WEBUS

“But let him who is taught in the word share all good things with him who teaches. Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked, for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”** Gal. 6:6-7 WEBUS

“Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always

having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 WEBUS

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For **with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you.**" Luke 6:38 WEBUS

"If we sowed to you spiritual things, **is it a great thing if we reap your fleshly things?**" 1 Corinthians 9:11 WEBUS

"Even so the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News **should live from the Good News.**" 1 Cor. 9:14 WEBUS

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain." And, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."" 1 Timothy 5:17-18 WEBUS

"For it is like a man going into another country, who called his own servants and **entrusted his goods to them.**" Mat. 25:14 WEBUS

"For this reason you also pay taxes, for they are servants of God's service, continually doing this very thing. **Therefore give everyone what you owe:** if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if customs, then customs; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."

Romans 13:6-7 WEBUS

“But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions.” Matthew 19:22 WEBUS

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can’t serve both God and Mammon.” Mat. 6:24 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Originally, I was tempted to write a message titled “Surrender My Giving: My Resources, My Talents, and My Time.” Then it struck me: the entire premise of giving must begin first by acknowledging that none of them—resources, talents, or time—are mine to give! They are all God’s; they are on loan from God for us to steward, and good stewardship must include “surrendering” all of them to Him as a beautiful measure of faith.

I must confess: I don’t like this topic; I don’t want to preach about it, and so I’ve avoided it; I had real, guttural anxiety over creating this message, and even more over delivering it. I guess that is why after almost six hundred sermons since the inauguration of Kingdom Embassy Ministries, this is the first of its kind. A 600:1 ratio says something. However, my negligence does not define the actual value of such a message nor its necessity. And as I contemplated, I moved from one message about Resources, Talents,

and Time, to one message for each of those topics. Today, we will tackle, "Surrender My Giving: God's Resources."

Leading up to writing this sermon, I had an important conversation with an old acquaintance. It was one of those reconnection moments that seems coincidental at first, but with God, there is really no such thing. The conversation evolved into "Giving" as one of the topics. We both agreed that in this area of teaching, there have been many wounds inflicted upon millions upon millions of churchgoers over the years and that it has been a black eye on the church. Too many leaders have fleeced God's people, and it's a horrific witness. But then he said this, and I'll paraphrase what I received from his comments: "Look, just because people become gluttons and eat in ways that are extremely harmful to their health, doesn't mean we teach them to never eat again. No, they still must eat, but they must learn to eat properly, in a healthy way that sustains life." I pray I can teach you, in regards to this topic, to "eat properly, in a healthy way that sustains life!"

My greatest fear about preaching on this subject is that someone will assimilate this message as if I am trying to get something for myself. That idea makes me sick in my stomach. I'm going to surrender that to Yahweh today and let His Word speak; His Word and this one sermon out of six hundred.

SURRENDER MY GIVING

1. God's Resources

A. Sharing Resources

(1) The Truth about Tithing

(a) Hoarding your resources is the equivalent of stealing from God.

1. **“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In tithes and offerings.** You are cursed with the curse; for you rob me, even this whole nation. **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,** that there may be food in my house, and **test me now in this,”** says Yahweh of Armies, **“if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there will not be enough room for. I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;** neither shall your vine cast its fruit before its time in the field,” says Yahweh of Armies. “All nations shall call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says Yahweh of Armies.” Malachi 3:8-12 WEBUS
- a) How do you rob God? You withhold your tithes and offerings.

- 1) Tithe: a tenth of all your increase.

2) Offerings: additional giving above and beyond your tithe.

b) Test God!

1) Bring your entire tithe to God.

2) Observe how Yahweh opens up prosperity from heaven so abundant that you won't be able to contain it.

3) He will also rebuke the enemy on your behalf and prevent him from destroying your fruit.

4) Everyone will see your blessings and know they come from Yahweh.

(b) Bring your First Fruits not your leftovers...

1. "Honor Yahweh with your substance, with **the first fruits of all your increase;**" Proverbs 3:9 WEBUS

2. "**You shall give him [the priest] the first fruits** of your grain, of your new wine, and of your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep. **For Yahweh your God has chosen him** out of all your tribes to stand **to minister in Yahweh's name**, him and his sons forever."

Deuteronomy 18:4-5 WEBUS

a) First Fruits: the first portion of your harvest; the first part of your profit, not the last portion.

b) All you have comes from God, 100% of it. Your job is to be a faithful steward.

1) *“But **you shall remember Yahweh** your God, for **it is he who gives you power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as it is today.” Deuteronomy 8:18 WEBUS*

c) The fundamental condition of being a faithful steward is to give God the first 10% of what you are stewarding.

(c) Able gave his First Fruits and Cain gave his leftovers...

1. “As time passed, **Cain brought an offering to Yahweh** from the fruit of the ground. **Abel also brought some of the firstborn of his flock** and of its fat. **Yahweh respected Abel and his offering, but he didn’t respect Cain and his offering.** Cain was very angry, and the expression on his face fell.” Genesis 4:3-5
WEBUS

a) Cain became so envious, jealous, and hateful of Able and his blessing that he murdered him and attempted to bury the evidence.

b) And we all know how that ended!

(d) Some people claim that there is no profit in obeying God's instructions on giving!

1. ""Your words have been **harsh against** me," says **Yahweh**. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against you?' **You have said, 'It is vain to serve God,' and 'What profit is it that we have followed his instructions** and that we have walked mournfully before Yahweh of Armies? Now we call the proud happy; yes, those who work wickedness are built up; yes, they tempt God, and escape.'" Malachi 3:13-15
WEBUS

a) There are no benefits for following Yahweh's instructions about bringing their tithes and offerings; but instead, the proud and wicked are the ones who prosper!

- 1) They say: *"It is vain to serve God," and "What profit is there to follow His instructions?"*

(e) The long term benefits of giving!

1. "Then those who feared Yahweh spoke one with another; and Yahweh listened and heard, and **a book of memory** was written before him for **those who feared Yahweh and who honored his name**. They shall be mine," says Yahweh of Armies, "my own

possession in the day that I make. **I will spare them, as a man spares his own son** who serves him. **Then you shall return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who doesn't serve him.**" Malachi 3:16-18

WEBUS

- a) God sees all and remembers everyone who fears and honors Him.
- b) In the end, God will certainly separate the righteous and the wicked, and those who serve Him from those who don't.
 - 1) Special Emphasis: Keep this passage in context, and you will realize just how critical your giving is. *"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me! But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In tithes and offerings."*

(2) The Proper Perspective about Your Giving

- (a) Give from the heart!
 - 1. "Remember this: he who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**. He who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**. **Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** And God

is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, **always having all sufficiency in everything**, may abound to every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

WEBUS

a) Give from the heart with this in mind...

- 1) Don't restrict your giving, or give infrequently; if you do, that is how your relationship with God will feel—restricted.
- 2) Don't be stingy in your giving; if you are, that is how your relationship with God will feel—stingy.
- 3) Instead, give freely and feel abundant.
- 4) Don't be reluctant or resentful about giving.
- 5) Don't feel pressured to give or forced; don't give with a sense of involuntary obligation.

b) When your giving comes from a place of joyful willingness...

- 1) God's grace will abound, and you will live as if you always have everything you need and that your life's work is meaningful and satisfying.

(b) Giving is for **your** benefit!

1. "yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the Good News, when I departed from

Macedonia, no assembly shared with me **in the matter of giving and receiving** but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need. **Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account.** But I have all things and abound. I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable and well-pleasing sacrifice to God. My **God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever! Amen.” Philippians 4:15-20 WEBUS

a) About what you are giving toward...

- 1) Don't give because your gift is critical for the church to function well; give instead because it is critical for your prosperity.
- 2) When you give, God will supply all that you will ever need according to His will and for His own glory.
- 3) There could be no greater fruit than that!

(c) The benefits of giving are immeasurable!

1. **“Give, and it will be given to you:** good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and **running over,**

will be given to you. For with the **same measure you measure it will be measured back to you.**" Luke 6:38

WEBUS

a) It's a law, like gravity!

- 1) Imagine in your mind that your giving is a raging river leading to a roaring waterfall pouring into a bottomless ocean.
- 2) The more generously you supply the river, the more powerful the waterfall, and the more churning there is in the water below.
- 3) When it comes to prosperity, your life can be like a majestic waterfall (God supplies all that you will ever need according to His will and for His own glory), or like a dripping faucet—you choose!

(d) You are already sowing your resources into something!

1. "For **he who sows to his own flesh** will from the flesh reap corruption. But **he who sows to the Spirit** will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up.** So then, **as we have opportunity, let's do what is good** toward all men, and **especially**

toward those who are of the household of the faith."

Galatians 6:8-10 WEBUS

- a) Are you your own charitable cause?
 - 1) "For self or for God?" That is the question.
 - 2) If you are your own cause, a life of depravity and lack awaits.
 - 3) If the things of God are your cause, a life of eternal joy awaits (and it begins now!).
- b) And don't think that giving to the things of God is some kind of financial investment with guaranteed returns in a promised timeframe.
 - 1) If you are giving to get immediate returns at a predictable moment, you have the wrong attitude and perspective, and you are sadly mistaken.
 - 2) Unfortunately, many preachers, who fleece their flocks, promise that type of result and use it to extract resources from their abused followers.
- c) The right perspective is to give from the heart, to give to God's cause and to His people, and then to be patient for the harvest!

- 1) ***“He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread, but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding.”*** Proverbs 12:11 WEBUS

(3) Every Believer has Ministry Duties

- (a) Some disciples are called to the work of ministry as a full-time vocation.

1. “Now in those days, when **the number of the disciples was multiplying**, a complaint arose from the Hellenists against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily service. The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, **“It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables.** Therefore, select from among you, brothers, seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, **whom we may appoint over this business. But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.”**” Acts 6:1-4 WEBUS

- a) At times help is needed so those called to ministry can attend fully to the needs of God’s work.
 - 1) *“It is not appropriate for us to forsake the word of God and serve tables.”*

(4) Supplying for the Needs of Workers who Labor for the Gospel

(a) Do not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain...

1. **“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching.** For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain.” And, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”” 1 Timothy 5:17-18 WEBUS

a) The ox who works in the field should eat from the field in which it works.

b) What does Paul’s analogy mean?

- 1) He who labors in the word and in teaching is worthy of having his needs met (eating from the field in which he works).

c) Respect and honor them for their work...

- 1) *“Therefore exhort one another, and build each other up, even as you also do. But we beg you, brothers, to know **those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to respect and honor them in love for their work’s sake.** Be at peace among yourselves.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13 WEBUS

d) If you are receiving godly instruction from godly teachers, support their work...

- 1) ***“But let him who is taught in the word share all good things with him who teaches. Don’t be deceived. God is not mocked, for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**” Galatians 6:6-7 WEBUS***

(5) Deriving Your Living from the Gospel is Biblical

(a) Is is permitted and even encouraged!

1. “Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Haven’t I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Aren’t you my work in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. **My defense to those who examine me is this: Have we no right to eat and to drink? Have we no right to take along a wife who is a believer,** even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or have only Barnabas and I no right to not work? **What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and doesn’t eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and doesn’t drink from the flock’s milk? Do I speak these things according to the ways of men? Or doesn’t the law**

also say the same thing? For it is written in the law of Moses, **“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.”** Is it for the oxen that God cares, or does he say it assuredly for our sake? Yes, **it was written for our sake, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should partake of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we reap your fleshly things?** If others partake of this right over you, don’t we yet more? **Nevertheless we didn’t use this right,** but we bear all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. **Don’t you know that those who serve around sacred things eat from the things of the temple,** and those who wait on the altar have their portion with the altar?” 1

Corinthians 9:1-13 WEBUS

- a) First determine if the work in ministry is legit!
 - 1) If it is, then the minister has a right to derive at least their basic needs from their work in ministry.
 - 2) This is no different than with other professions like soldiers, farmers, and shepherds; they work

in a profession and derive their living from that profession.

- b) This is completely legal according to Scripture which again teaches, *“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.”*
 - 1) The Bible is clearly not simply concerned with animals being provided for in their labor; it’s about men who work and should expect to be provided for from such work.
 - 2) So, if the work is the work of ministry with the fruit being spiritual in nature, it is also appropriate for that worker to reap natural benefits that provide for his daily living (even as the priest ate from the offerings made in the temple).
- c) Note: Paul chose not to use his right to earn a living from the Gospel because he feared that in his circumstances it would interfere with his effectiveness (see 1 Corinthians 9:15-18).
 - 1) ***“Even so the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News.”*** 1 Corinthians 9:14 WEBUS

(b) Paul was writing to set the record straight on this topic.

1. **“But I have used none of these things, and I don’t write these things that it may be done so in my case; for I would rather die, than that anyone should make my boasting void. For if I preach the Good News, I have nothing to boast about, for necessity is laid on me; but woe is to me if I don’t preach the Good News. For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward. But if not of my own will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.** What then is my reward? That when I preach the Good News, I may present the Good News of Christ without charge, so as not to abuse my authority in the Good News.” 1 Corinthians 9:15-18

WEBUS

- a) He was writing so others would see that it was perfectly legitimate for those *“who proclaim the Good News to live from the Good News.”*
 - 1) He was not teaching, however, so that it would be done in his case.
 - 2) He would rather die than ruin the dramatic testimony of his radical conversion and calling.
 - 3) To him there was no choice; it was not his will. What he was doing was an absolute requirement; in fact, he was scared not to do it!

- 4) His only reward was his involuntary calling to steward the message of the Good News.
- 5) He chose to do so, “without charge”, as he puts it, so as not to abuse his authority.

B. A Life Lesson on Money

(1) The Parable of the Talents adapted as a life lesson on money and material resources. (Matthew 25:14-30)

(a) [14-15 The Assignment]

1. A **[wealthy]** man was **[going to take a long sabbatical far from his home]**; he called three of his own servants and entrusted his **[money and other material resources]** to them. To one he gave **[access to most of his investments and assets]**, to another **[a lesser amount]**, and to a third **[just a small amount, but significant nevertheless]**, to ***each according to his own ability [to properly manage his abundant wealth]**. ****Then** he went on his journey [just as Christ departed and left His church (servants) to complete His mission].

- a) ***“Each of us has received an assignment to steward an allotment of God’s wealth, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the**

resources of God in all its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

- b) ***“**We are ambassadors** on behalf of Christ, as though God were earnestly ministering through us: therefore we beg you on behalf of Christ, fulfill your specific assignment.” 2 Corinthians 5:20*

(b) **[16-18 Stewardship of Resources]**

1. Immediately he who received **[access to most of his master’s investments and assets]** went and traded with them, and **[he doubled what was under his management]**. In the same way, he who **[had access to a bit less of his master’s investments and assets]** traded with them **[and doubled what was under his management]**. But he who received **[just a small amount of his master’s investments and assets]** went away and dug in the earth and hid his lord’s money.

- a) *“Here, moreover, **it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.**” 1 Corinthians 4:2 WEBUS*

(c) **[19-24 Rewards for Wise Stewardship]**

1. *“*Now after a long time the Lord of those servants came, and settled accounts with them. **He who received **[access to most of his master’s investments and assets]** came and brought **[twice as much to his***

master], saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me **[these resources]**. Behold, I have gained **[twice the resources]** in addition to them.' "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.' "He also who got **[access to a bit less of his master's investments and assets]** came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me **[these resources]**. Behold, I have gained **[twice as much]** in addition to them.' "His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things. I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'

- a) *""Who then is **the faithful and wise servant**, whom his Lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? **Blessed is that servant whom his Lord finds doing so when he comes.** Most certainly I tell you that he will set him over all that he has." Matthew 24:45-47 WEBUS
- b) **"For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. But **if anyone builds on the foundation with gold,**

silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is. If any man's work remains which he built on it, he will receive a reward." 1 Corinthians 3:11-14

WEBUS

(d) [24-25 Poor Stewardship]

1. "He also who had received **[just a small amount of his master's investments and assets]** came and said, 'Lord, ***I knew** you that you are a hard man, reaping where you didn't sow, and gathering where you didn't scatter. ****I was afraid**, and went away and hid your **[resources]** in the earth. Behold, you have what is yours.'
- a) * **"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not **know his master's business**. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**"** John 15:15 NIV
- b) ****"For *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*"** II Timothy 1:7 NKJV

(e) **[26-30 Consequences for Poor Stewardship]**

1. “But his lord answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant. You knew that I reap where I didn’t sow, and gather where I didn’t scatter. You ought therefore to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back my own with interest. Take away therefore the **[resources]** from him and give it to him who had **[access to most of his master’s investments and assets]**. For to everyone who has will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who doesn’t have, even that which he has will be taken away. *Throw out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

- a) **...the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is... “If any man’s work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:15 WEBUS*

C. Paying Tribute

(1) He called three of his servants and entrusted something to each according to his own ministry assignment.

- (a) **Then he went on his journey** (just as Christ departed and left His church (servants) to complete His mission).

- 1) You should **know your Master's business...everything has been made known to you.** (John 15:15)
- (2) **See Romans 13 teaching about those appointed to ministry...** (From: [If You Ass-u-me](#))
 - (a) Because of this you also pay taxes. What taxes and why?
 1. “For because of this you also **pay** taxes, for **they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due:** taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.” Romans 13:6-7 NKJV
 - a) Because of who they are! **Who are they?**
 - 1) They have God-given authority as His ministers.
 - 2) They are His servants and they devote themselves entirely, continuously, and steadfastly to their direct assignment from God.
 - 3) You ought to pay them tribute and support, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.
 - 4) The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-15)
“...to each according to his own ability...”

5) In fact, God's servants (ministers) are worthy of double honor who labor in word and doctrine...
(I Timothy 5:17)

b) Paid for ministry? (See I Corinthians 9:1-14 above)

1) Do you have the right to eat and drink?

2) The Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News.

(3) In Romans 13, Paul is not teaching about taxes owed to a secular government, but instead to consider it a tribute.

(a) It is an obligation you feel honored to pay to "God's ministers attending continually to this very thing." **What is this very thing?**

1. "For **he is God's minister** to you for good. ...for **he is God's minister**, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil." Romans 13:4

a) A worker is worthy of his wages being fulfilled; in other words, a worker is worthy of **the entirety** of the wage he was promised.

1) "For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**" " I Timothy 5:18

- b) A minister of God is worthy of his **full wages**; that is what Paul is referring to when he says, *“because of this you also **pay** taxes.”*
 - 1) Fulfilling the payment to the one who is worthy!
 - 2) You offer the entirety of your tribute to God’s ministers.
- c) “Fulfilling” this tribute has the same implication that Y’shua made about fulfilling His Father’s laws in Matthew 5:17.
 - 1) *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill** [execute in full].”*
- d) And you are to fulfill your tribute with a cheerful heart, not from compulsion...and God will bless you for doing so! In other words, give and it will be given back to you in abundance. (See 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 & Luke 6:38 above.)

D. Difficulty Giving

- (1) **Don’t Make Money Your God** (from [Surrender Idolatry & Practice Preeminence](#))
 - (a) The Diagnosis of Idolatry!
 - 1. **“Don’t lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth,** where moth and rust consume, and where thieves

break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don't break through and steal; **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" Matthew 6:19-21 WEBUS

2. **"No one can serve two masters,** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You can't serve both God and Mammon.**" Matthew 6:24 WEBUS
3. **"But those who are determined to be rich fall into a temptation, a snare, and many foolish and harmful lusts,** such as drown men in ruin and destruction. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed,** and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:9-10 WEBUS
4. "Therefore don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?' **For the Gentiles seek after all these things;** for your heavenly Father knows that you need all **these things.** But seek first God's Kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:31-33 WEBUS

a) Symptoms of Idolatry: where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

- 1) **Possessionitis:** obsession with gaining things or a hyper-focus on worldly acquisitions.
- 2) **Mammon Mania:** the love of money; when wealth becomes an evil influence or false object of worship.
- 3) **Pagan Anxiety Syndrome:** constant worry and attention over personal satisfaction and needs.

(2) **The Rich Ruler** (See Matthew 19:16-26)

(a) You must be rid of the stronghold of possessions...

1. "Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, **go, sell what you have, and give to the poor,** and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when the young man heard this, **he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions.**" Matthew 19:21-22 WEBUS

a) You will either chase after the things of the world or you will chase after the things of God, but you can't do both!

- 1) "**No one can serve two masters...**" Matthew 6:24
- 2) "**Pagans seek after all those things...**" Mat. 6:32

3) ***“Those who are determined to be rich fall into a temptation, a snare, and many foolish and harmful lusts...”*** 1 Timothy 6:9

b) He went away sad, for he had great possessions.

1) ***“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you confessed the good confession in the sight of many witnesses.”***

1 Timothy 6:10-12 WEBUS

(3) A Fabulous New Perspective on Your Possessions!

(a) **From our introduction:** “The entire premise of giving is to first recognize and to come to terms with the fact that none of them: resources, talents, or time, are mine to give! They are all God’s; they are on loan from God for us to steward.”

1. “All who believed were together, and **had all things in common**. They **sold their possessions** and goods,

and **distributed them** to all, according as anyone had need." Acts 2:44-45 WEBUS

2. "The multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul. **Not one of them claimed that anything of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.** With great power, the apostles gave their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **Great grace was on them all.** For neither was there among them any who lacked, for **as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds** of the things that were sold, and **laid them at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each, according as anyone had need.**" Acts 4:32-35 WEBUS

- a) What is "mine" is the Lord's to use for His purpose and how He wishes.
- b) I release my possessions; I end my striving to acquire more! *"Man of God, flee these things!"*
(1 Tim. 6:10-12)
- c) Warning: Give from your heart!
- 1) *"Let each man **give according** as he has determined in his **heart, not grudgingly or***

under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 WEBUS

d) Warning: Be honest about your giving!

- 1) *“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, **sold a possession, and kept back part of the price**, his wife also being aware of it, then brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back part of the price of the land? While you kept it, didn’t it remain your own? After it was sold, wasn’t it in your power? **How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart?** You haven’t lied to men, but to God.” **Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and died.** Great fear came on all who heard these things. The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him. About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” She said, “Yes, for so much.” But Peter asked her, “**How is it that you have***

agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?

*Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” **She fell down immediately at his feet and died.** The young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. **Great fear came on the whole assembly, and on all who heard these things.”***

Acts 5:1-11 WEBUS

(4) **A Final Word: A proper perspective how much giving is enough!** (from: [Surrender Pride & Practice Meekness](#))

(a) Apparently, Y’shua witnessed rich people disparaging the poor for their inability to make “significant contributions.”

1. “And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. **Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,** which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, **this poor widow has put in more** than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For **they all contributed out of their abundance,** but **she out of her poverty** has put

in everything she had, all she had to live on.”” Mark
12:41-44 ESV

a) Clearly, God sees the sacrificial giving of those
“less fortunate” as of greater value than the larger
donations given by those of affluence, who make
no sacrifice to give.

1) You are charged to give sacrificially, regardless
of your financial status.

(b) A warning to pastors who fleece the flock... harsher
judgment is coming!

1. “**shepherd the flock of God** which is among you,
exercising the oversight, not under compulsion, but
voluntarily; **not for dishonest gain**, but willingly; not
as Lording it over **those entrusted to you, but making
yourselves examples to the flock.**” 1 Peter 5:2-3

WEBUS

a) Shepherd the flock; don’t use them to extract their
resources!

b) Dishonest gain attained by abusing the message of
sacrificial giving is an abomination to Yahweh!

1) “*Let not many of you be **teachers**, my brothers,
knowing that we will receive **heavier
judgment.***” James 3:1 WEBUS

ASSIGNMENT

1. Contemplate your beliefs and practices around giving to the work of the Gospel.

- A. What have been your beliefs and practices up until this time?
- B. Has anything changed after hearing this message? If so, what are those differences and why?
- C. If there have been changes in your perspective, what will you do about it?
- D. Who will you inform about your new beliefs that can hold you accountable to take action in a way that is obedient to the Scriptures?
- E. **Admonition:** *“But do you want to know, vain man, that **faith apart from works is dead?**”* James 2:20