

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Rhythms of Grace | Part 5: The Dollar & The Clock

We receive that we might give.

David Mathis, *“Receiving God’s ongoing grace for our souls sustains us, inspires us, and empowers us for evangelism and stewardship.”*

We are called to be disciple-making disciples.

Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Stephen Smallman, *“Our involvement in making disciples will be one of the most significant things we can do for our own growth as disciples.”*

In disciple-making, we also discover a means to more grace:

1. **Disciple-making shows us our smallness and God’s bigness.**
2. **Disciple-making challenges us to be holistic Christians.**
3. **Disciple-making makes us more aware of our sin.**

Acts 4:13 (NLT) ¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

4. **Disciple-making teaches us to lean heavier on Jesus.** (and less on ourselves!)

For the Christian, the issue is not just that we give, but how we give.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT)

⁹ You know the **generous** grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though **he was rich**, yet for your sakes he **became poor**, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

Generosity is one of the great evidences of truly being a Christian.

Acts 20:35 (NLT)

³⁵ And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**

5 Truths in Spending and Giving

1. Money is a tool.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Hebrews 13:5 (NLT)

⁵ Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said,

"I will never fail you.

I will never abandon you."

2. How we use money reveals our heart.

Matthew 6:21 (NLT)

²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Philippians 4:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

David Mathis, *"...is an opportunity to show, and reinforce, the place of faith and love in our hearts. It's a chance to gladly pursue the first and second greatest commandments through our giving, and to cultivate the mind of Christ through our spending: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4). It's telling that Paul would couple "lovers of money" with "lovers of self" (2 Tim. 3:2)"*

3. Sacrifices varies from person to person.

Rebecca DeYoung, *"...not just what is necessary for bare subsistence, but also what is necessary for living a life "becoming" or appropriate to human beings. The point is not to live on crusts of bread with bare walls and threadbare clothes. The point is that a fully human life is lived in a way free from being enslaved to our stuff. Our possessions are meant to serve our needs and humanness, rather than our lives being centered around service to our possessions and our desires for them."*

4. Generosity is a means of grace.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NLT) – let's dig deeper in 2 Corinthians for greater context and understanding...

⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. ⁹ As the Scriptures say,

“They share freely and give generously to the poor.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

¹⁰For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

¹¹Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

5. God is the most cheerful giver.

Christians should be the most intentional people on earth with regard to how they use their time.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (NLT)

¹⁵So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

Psalms 90:12 (NLT)

¹²Teach us to realize the brevity of life,
so that we may grow in wisdom.

David Mathis, *“Sanctifying our time Godward will mean spending it on others in the manifold acts of love. Good works glorify God not by meeting his needs (he doesn't have any, Acts 17:25), but through serving others. As Martin Luther memorably said, it is not God who needs your good works, but your neighbor.”*