

SERMON NOTES:

Formed By... | *What is forming you - and who are you becoming?*

Part 5: The Freedom of Enough

BIG Idea: Jesus forms us into people who can recognize when we have enough, honor God first, and leave room in our lives to be generous when need arises.

Application: Decide what enough looks like, make firstfruits giving a settled priority, and create financial margin so generosity can become a way of life rather than an occasional emergency.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

More will never tell you when you have enough.

Matthew 6:19-34 (NLT) *Teaching about Money and Possessions*

¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

²² “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

1. More will never tell you when you have enough.

Matthew 6:21 (NLT)

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

Matthew 6:24b (NLT)

You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Money is not merely something we manage. Money is something capable of mastering us.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NLT)

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

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.

If every increase in income requires an increase in lifestyle, there will never be enough left to become generous.

2. Give God the first, not what is left.

Proverbs 3:9 (NLT)

⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.

Malachi 3:8-10 (NLT)

⁸ "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me!

"But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?'

"You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. ⁹ You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

The tithe is not the ceiling of Christian generosity. It is a remarkably helpful starting line.

3. Leave enough room in your life to say yes.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NLT)

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.”

¹⁰ For 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.

¹¹ Yes, 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.

If every dollar is already committed to maintaining my lifestyle, I may have plenty and still have nothing available to give.

Generosity requires margin.

Contentment says: I have enough.

Firstfruits says: God comes first.

Margin says: I don't have to consume everything.

Generosity says: Now I am free to say yes.

That is the freedom of enough.