# Summary

In this sermon, the pastor opens with a transparent look at how WRC manages its finances, breaking down the church budget to show the congregation that giving is not about pressure but about purpose. He explains the five "legacy lanes" through which 10 to 12 percent of all income is distributed, including a future building fund, local missions, national missions, international missions, and a ministry focused on evangelism resources. The goal is to help the congregation see that every dollar given has a name on it and is making a real kingdom impact. The core message centers on three truths about giving drawn from 2 Corinthians 9:6-10. First, you cannot reap what you will not release. Second, giving must come from the heart, not just the hand, because God loves a cheerful (or "hilarious") giver. Third, God converts generous giving into both resources and righteousness. The pastor uses the image of a dam versus an aqueduct to challenge the congregation to let money flow rather than hoard it, and he closes by encouraging everyone to give with an open hand, trusting that God will bless what is released in faith.

# Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and open hands. As we gather together, we ask that You quiet the noise of fear, pride, and self-reliance in each of us. Help us to hear not just with our ears but with our spirits. Give us a willingness to be challenged, changed, and moved by Your truth. May this time together produce something in each of us that goes far beyond this room. In Jesus' name, amen.

# Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have given away, whether time, money, or something else, that ended up blessing you more than you expected?

# Key Verses

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-10
- Psalm 112:9
- Galatians 6:7
- Proverbs 11:25

# Questions

- The pastor described two mindsets about giving: a limited mindset and a multiplication mindset. Which mindset do you find yourself defaulting to most often, and why?
- He said, 'You cannot reap what you will not release.' Can you think of an area in your life, beyond just money, where you have been holding on too tightly instead of releasing it to God?
- The word translated 'cheerful' in 2 Corinthians 9:7 actually comes from the Greek word meaning 'hilarious.' What do you think it looks like practically to give with that kind of joyful, wholehearted attitude?
- The pastor drew a contrast between a dam and an aqueduct. In your current season of life, which one best describes how you handle your resources, and what would it take to shift toward being more of an aqueduct?
- He shared a personal story about giving away a bonus even when it was financially uncomfortable, and God returned it quickly. Have you ever had a moment where obedient giving led to an unexpected blessing? What happened?
- The sermon emphasized that God is not looking at your hand but at your heart. How does your attitude toward giving reflect what you truly believe about God's provision and faithfulness?
- The pastor said, 'Fear makes us hold tightly to what faith teaches us to release.' Where does fear most often show up in your financial decisions, and how can faith practically push back against that fear?
- Psalm 112:9 says the righteous will be remembered forever. How does the way you use your time, money, and gifts today connect to the kind of legacy you want to leave behind?

# Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you have been holding on with a closed fist, whether it is money, time, grace, or love. Pray and ask God what He wants you to release. Then take one concrete step to release it with an open hand and a cheerful heart. Write down what you gave and watch over the coming weeks to see how God responds to your act of faith.

# Key Takeaways

- You cannot reap what you will not release. Just as a farmer must plant seeds to get a harvest, we must be willing to let go of what we have before God can multiply it back.

- Giving must flow from the heart, not just the hand. God is not impressed by reluctant or pressured giving. He loves a joyful, wholehearted giver whose attitude matches the act.
- God converts generous giving into both resources and righteousness. When we give with the right heart, God does not just return what we gave. He produces a harvest of generosity and righteousness in us.
- Currency is meant to flow. Choosing to be an aqueduct rather than a dam means letting God's blessings move through you to reach others, rather than storing everything up out of fear.
- Leaving a legacy is about eternal impact. Every dollar, hour, or act of grace given with an open hand has the potential to reach people and places we will never see, creating a legacy that outlasts our lifetime.

# Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the truth of Your Word and for the reminder that everything we have belongs to You. As we leave today, we ask that You soften any hardness in our hearts around giving and generosity. Help us to move from fear to faith, from closed fists to open hands. Grow in each of us a cheerful, wholehearted Spirit that trusts You completely with our resources. May the seeds we plant in this season produce a harvest that reaches far beyond what we can see or imagine. Let our lives and our giving leave a legacy that points people to You. In Jesus' name, amen.