

Giving message

Intro

Series called Entrusted

Ps Steve looked at ownership:

1. God owns everything
2. God sees everything—looking to bless those who seek him
3. God knows best

Then Susie spoke on stewardship. We are stewards of our time, relationships, money and even the earth.

1. God delights in giving us the best.
2. We are to be faithful with what we have been given
3. God gives us more when we can be trusted with what we have

Ps Esther then shared on honouring God

1. With our hearts
2. With our lives
3. With our possessions

Today is giving

31,173 verses in the Bible

500 verses on prayer

Less than that on faith

2,350 verses on Money, wealth and possessions

Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than about faith or prayer

Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than heaven and hell combined

This is an important topic

God owns our money

God asks us to steward our money well

God asks us to honour Him with our money

God asks us to give our money

Giving reflects God's nature

Susie and I out for dinner...she asks for food... I say no... give her coleslaw.

God is a giving God He doesn't just give us the coleslaw He gives us the burger and chips!

When Abraham needed a sacrifice God gave a lamb
When the Israelites needed deliverance God gave miracles
When Israel needed to hear the voice of the Lord God gave the prophets
When we needed a loving Father like the prodigal son God opened His arms
gives us His love
When we needed forgiveness like the women caught in adultery God gives us
forgiveness
When we needed direction and leading God gave us His Word
When the world needed a saviour, God gave His son
When the world needed a risen saviour God gave His resurrection life
When the world needed a representative of Christ on earth, God gave Holy Spirit
to empower the Church to be that witness
God gives generously and without limit
God is a generous God
It's who He is

John 3:16 - God gave... that which was most precious to Him He gave

Matthew 7:11 NLT

[11] So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how
much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

Romans 8:3 NLT

[3] The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful
nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like
the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's
control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

James 1:5 NLT

[5] If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will
not rebuke you for asking.

James 1:17 NIV

[17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of
the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Our giving reflects God's nature to the world around us

We are called to be salt and light

- Called to shine the light of Christ to the world around us

One of the ways we can be that salt and light is by reflecting His nature to the
world around us

If God is a generous and giving God, our giving reflects that to the world

Wheelbarrow analogy

- We can be focussed on the sawdust but it helps to see the bigger picture

- We can be so focussed on giving we forget to see giving in the bigger picture

When we put giving in the light of eternity everything changes

One day we will need to give an account on every thought that we've had, every action we've taken and every penny we've spent

When we see giving in the light of eternity, it affects how we spend our money

In eternity we will also have an opportunity to see the impact of our giving

Application

Because God is an extravagant giver, be an extravagant giver

Extravagantly give your time

- Prayer
- To the Word
- To disciple making

Extravagantly give your talents

- Matt 25
- What talents can you give to the Lord?
- Our talents are there to serve the king

Extravagantly give your finance

- Are you giving?
- For a Jesus people, for disciples of Christ, giving isn't an optional extra

- *Where to start?*

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 NLT

[1] Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. [2] On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.

- Planned regular giving to the Lord
- Plan to be generous!

- Tithe - 10%
- Then grow from there
- NT Jesus made a greater ask on OT principles
- You have heard that it was said, but I say to you

- The tithe is God's historical method to get us on the path of giving. In that sense, it can serve as a gateway to the joy of grace giving. It's unhealthy to view tithe as a place to stop, but it can still be a good place to start. Tithing isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line of giving; it's just the starting blocks. Tithes can be the training wheels to launch us into the mind-set, skills, and habits of grace giving. **Randy Alcorn**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 TPT

[6] Here's my point. A stingy sower will reap a meager harvest, but the one who sows from a generous spirit will reap an abundant harvest. [7] Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!

- Favour story - the camels are coming - Isaiah 60:6 NLT

[6] Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshiping the LORD.

- The camels have come and their sitting in front of me

Response

Offering

Pray and ask the Lord for help (in groups)

Get out your phone and set up a standing order