

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia Message...

#### Giving in Practice

With Phil Harwood  
March 22, 2026



Matthew 19:21-26 (NLT) Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>24</sup> I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>25</sup> The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. <sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Luke 16:10-15 (NLT) “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.”

**Big Idea: The practice of giving in the context of church family is an essential discipleship habit.**

- **Giving in practice is an act of sacrifice.**

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NLT) “Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.”

**CS Lewis in Mere Christianity (Social Morality)** *I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.*

*For many of us the great obstacle to charity lies not in our luxurious living or desire for more money, but in our fear—fear of insecurity. This must often be recognized as a temptation. Sometimes our pride also hinders our charity; we are tempted to spend more than we ought on the showy forms of generosity (tipping, hospitality) and less than we ought on those who really need our help.*

- **Giving in practice is an act of humility.**

Acts 4:32-35 (NLT) “All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.”

- **Giving in practice is an act of community.**

Acts 7:1-7

#### A practice for giving:

- 1) **As a start: 10% of your pre-tax income – the total amount you make before deductions...**
- 2) **...given to this church family as an undirected gift.**
- 3) **Giving to other ministries or charities or fundraisers is over and above this 10% base.**

- **Money is a terrible master. It enslaves and drains us of life.**

- **But Jesus is a loving leader and gives us life. As money comes under the authority and rule of Jesus, he can turn it from a tyrant into a tool for his kingdom.**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**  
To get plugged in email:  
**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Giving in Practice  
#3 of 3 - March 22, 2026**

- 1) Read Matthew 19:16-26 and Luke 16:10-15. What is the context for these passages? What point is Jesus trying to make to his audience?
- 2) What do you observe about how Jesus talks about money?
- 3) Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-3. What does this passage teach about giving as an act of sacrifice? How does Paul's description of the churches in Macedonia compare with what Jesus says in Matthew 19 and Luke 16?
- 4) Where do you see cultural pressure to live at the limits of our income?
- 5) In Acts 4:32-35, the early believers sold what they had to give to the mission and vision of the church. They "brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet". What do we learn from this passage about giving as an act of humility?
- 6) Giving in practice is an act of community. What examples have you seen of this in your life or the life of Sequoia?
- 7) Read Acts 7:1-7. What connection do we see between giving to our church family and mission of advancing Jesus' kingdom?
- 8) Review the three points under "A practice for giving" in the Sequoia Notes.  
  
Discuss them as an Impact Community.
  - a) How did you react to these points? Positively? Negatively?
  - b) How do you think others might have reacted?
  - c) What would it mean if we all put this into practice?
- 9) What would it mean in your life to bring your money under the authority and rule of Jesus? What step is God asking you to take in response to this message?



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