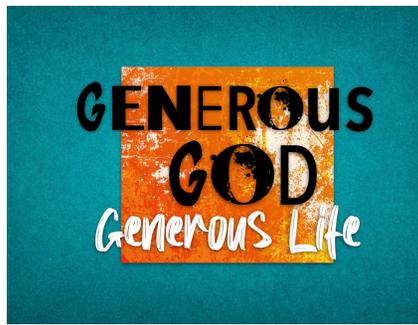


## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia Message...

#### Putting God First

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
March 8, 2026



- **Giving reveals who we trust.**
- **Putting God first with our wealth is never about money. It's about allegiance.**

### Let's look at several principles to better understand this...

- **Giving is rooted in redemption.**

"I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from Egypt, the place of your slavery." Exodus 20:2 (NLT)

- **God deserves our firstfruits.**

Proverbs 3:10 (NIV) "Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops..."

- **Tithing trains the heart.**

Leviticus 27:30 (NLT) "One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy."

Deuteronomy 14:23 (NLT) "Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored... Doing this will teach you always to fear [revere] the Lord your God."

- **A lack of generosity reveals a heart problem.**

Malachi 3:8-12 (NIV) Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'" "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. <sup>12</sup> "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

- **We can give because God gave first.**

- **Giving is an act of allegiance.**

### What concrete steps can we take today to put God first?

- **Start giving.**

You can give on the Sequoia App or website [sequoiachurch.org/give](https://sequoiachurch.org/give)

- **Give your firstfruits.**

- **Stretch into greater generosity.**

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT) "The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

**Big Idea: Give God your first & your best. And trust Him with the rest.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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To get plugged in email:

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**Putting God First**  
**#1 of 3 - March 8,, 2026**

### Context

- 1) Exodus 20:2 reminds Israel that God rescued them from slavery before giving them His commands. Why do you think God begins the Ten Commandments with a reminder of redemption? How does remembering what God has done shape the way we approach obedience—including generosity?
- 2) The passages in Proverbs, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Malachi all address giving in different moments in Israel's history. What do these passages reveal about how central generosity and firstfruits were in Israel's relationship with God?

### Observation

- 3) Looking at Proverbs 3:9–10 and Deuteronomy 14:23, what specific words or ideas stand out about *how* people were to give to God?
- 4) In Malachi 3:8–12, what reasons does God give for why Israel's lack of giving was such a serious issue? What promises does God attach to faithful giving?

### Meaning

- 5) The message says **“Giving reveals who we trust.”** Why do you think money and generosity are such powerful indicators of where our trust and allegiance really lie?
- 6) How does the reality that we can give because God gave first, fulfilled in Jesus, help us trust the Lord in every area of our life, including in our giving?
- 7) Deuteronomy 14:23 says tithing “will teach you always to revere the Lord.” How can the practice of giving actually shape and train our hearts spiritually?

### Application

- 8) What are some common fears, barriers, or misconceptions that keep people from putting God first in their finances? How can faith help overcome those obstacles?
- 9) The big idea of the message is: **“Give God your first and your best, and trust Him with the rest.”** What is one practical step you could take this week to grow in generosity or put God first in your finances?



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