

1. The Core of Generosity: A shift in Vision

- **Generosity Isn't Just About Money:** True generosity is a posture of open hands, recognizing that everything we have—time, talent, and treasure—belongs to God.
- **Money Reveals the Heart:** Money holds a unique place. It's often the last thing we surrender to God, and Jesus knew this. Where your treasure is, your heart will follow.
- **Correcting Our Vision:** The biggest obstacle to generosity is an undervaluation of Christ. When our view of His worth is unclear, the value of our possessions grows, and our desire to hold on to them grows stronger.

Colossians 1:13–20 NET

He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him—all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers—all things were created through him and for him. He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross—through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- **Paul's Vision of Christ (Colossians 1:15–20):** Paul saw Christ as the ultimate treasure above all creation. Christ was the essence of all value and worth.

2. The Joyful Exchange

Matthew 13:44–46 NET

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, hidden in a field, that a person found and hid. Then because of joy he went and sold all that he had and bought that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he found a pearl of great value, he went out and sold everything he had and bought it.

- **The Parable of the Treasure (Matthew 13:44–46):** Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven as a treasure so valuable that a man joyfully sells everything he has to obtain it.
- **Christ is the Only Good Thing:** Compared to Christ, everything else is an utter waste of resources. Our response to Him should be a joyful willingness to give up everything to obtain more of Him and His Kingdom.

Matthew 6:19–21 NET

“Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But accumulate for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 NET

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 12:15 NET

...Watch out and guard yourself from all types of greed, because one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Luke 18:24–25 NET

...How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! In fact, 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.

3. Practicing Kingdom-Minded Stewardship

- **The Kingdom of God Is Now:** Giving is an act of supporting the present mission of the Kingdom and prioritizing it over our future-focused security and happiness.
- **Give Consistently and First:** Giving a tithe (a tenth) is a biblical starting point. The early church gave consistently and first, demonstrating Christ's preeminence in their lives.

What does it mean to be Kingdom-minded about all of our money?

- **Every Dollar Belongs to God:** Kingdom-mindedness isn't just about tithing; it's about stewarding every dollar as if it belongs to God. This transforms our perspective on big purchases, savings, and all financial decisions.
- **An Example: Kingdom-Minded Investing:** Put your money to work for the Kingdom even while it's in savings. Organizations like the Solomon Foundation invest in churches and ministries, allowing you to save for your future while building God's Kingdom now.

4. The Culture of a Giving Church

Acts 4:32–35 NET

The group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but everything was held in common. With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all. For there was no one needy among them, because those who were owners of land or houses were selling them and bringing the proceeds from the sales and placing them at the apostles' feet. The proceeds were distributed to each, as anyone had need.

- **A Church with a Vision (Acts 4:32–35):** The early church was marked by a radical generosity fueled by a deep-seated vision of Christ. They shared everything, and there was no one in need among them.

The Commitment Spiral at Vail Christian Church:

