

Encounter Church
Sunday August 16, 2026

Against the Grain
Giving is Worship

2 Timothy 3:1-5- (NLT) “(1)You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. (2)For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. (3)They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. (4)They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. (5)They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!”

The last couple of weeks we’ve talked about going against the grain of selfishness and living for a much bigger Kingdom than the little kingdom of self! We’ve talked about living for the Kingdom of God!

Matthew 16:24-26 (MSG)- “Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

When Jesus is in the drivers seat we’ll have a generous lifestyle and not a greedy lifestyle!

Greed- “the desire for more (things), i.e. lusting for a greater number of temporal things that go beyond what God determines is eternally best.

The term translated “greed” or “covetousness” describes an appetite that always wants more—more money, more power, more pleasure—regardless of moral cost.

Scripture treats it not as a minor flaw but as a foundational sin that rivals the worship of God.

HOW UNHEALTHY IS GREED

Mark 7:21-23 (NLT) “(21)For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, (22)adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. (23)All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

Luke 12:15 (NLT)- “Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

THE NEXT VERSE TELLS US THE REAL DANGER OF GREED.

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)- “So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

LET'S DO ONE MORE

Ephesians 5:5 (NLT)- “You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.”

It's not about having stuff! It's about stuff having you!

It's about my worship!

LOOK AT THE WORDS OF JESUS WHEN HE IS BEING TEMPTED BY SATAN!

Matthew 4:10 (NLT)- “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'”

HOW CAN WE GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GREED?

1 Chronicles 29:13-17 (NLT)- “(13)O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name! (14)But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us! (15)We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. (16)“O Lord our God, even this material we have gathered to build a Temple to honor your holy name comes from you! It all belongs to you! (17)I know, my God, that you examine (test) our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

The only proof that everything you have belongs to God is when you give a portion of what He's given you back to Him!

THAT'S WORSHIP!

HOW DO I GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GREED? *GIVING!*

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)- “2 Corinthians 9:7- “.... “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

The only true worship is willing worship and your giving is worship!

Genesis 14:18-20- (NLT)“(18)And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. (19)Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. (20)And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you.” Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.”

HOW DO I GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GREED? GIVING!

1. Tithing is Worship

Genesis 28:22- (NLT) “And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshipping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.”

JACOB HAS AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD. After he wakes up he pours olive oil over the stone and calls the place “Bethel” which means the House of God.

Then his response is a Worship God with a tithe. With giving God a tenth!

The only proof that everything you have belongs to God is when you give a portion of what He's given you back to Him!

When we worship with our tithe it's the response of a grateful, humble people expressing their praise to God for His provision!

TITHING IS GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GREED!

2. Tithing that is Worship is First

“Seek First the Kingdom of God...” Not my own little kingdom.

Genesis 4:3-7- “(3)And in the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground. (4)But Abel brought [an offering of] the [finest] firstborn of his flock and the fat portions. And the Lord had respect (regard) for Abel and for his offering; (5)but for Cain and his offering He had no respect. So Cain became extremely angry (indignant), and he looked annoyed and hostile.”

Hebrews 11:4 (NLT)- “It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.”

Abel's act of worship still testifies to the fact that a true worshipper must come in faith, presenting the sacrifice required by God!

Jude 1:11- (NKJV) “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.”

THE WAY OF CAIN: GREED AND REBELLION

Why do people not put God first in their giving? Greed and rebellion!

Tithing that is Worship is first. It's about giving God your best!

CONCLUSION:

Proverbs 3:9-10-(AMP) “(9)Honor the Lord with your wealth
And with the first fruits of all your crops (income); (10)Then your barns will be
abundantly filled And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

John 4:23- (NLT)“But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers
will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will
worship him that way.”

TRUE WORSHIPERS GO AGAINST THE GRAIN OF GREED AND BECOME
GIVERS TO GOD FIRST.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?