



“The Giving App”

We all hope for a [clear formula](#) for giving to God. We would like a [giving app](#)!

In the end, it always comes down to the tension between [fear](#) and [faith](#).

I. Lessons from the Widow of [Zarephath](#)

⁷ “Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ ‘Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.’ ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ‘Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?’ ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, ‘And bring me, please, a piece of bread.’”

¹² “‘As surely as the LORD your God lives,’ she replied, ‘I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.’”

¹³ “Elijah said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.’ ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.’”

¹⁵ “She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.”

- I Kings 17:7-16

God is pleased when we give:

1. [First](#) vs. 10, 11, 13 (Matthew 6:33, Luke 6:38)
2. [Fully](#) vs. 12 (Mark 6:38, Romans 12:1 & 2)
3. [Freely](#) vs. 15 (Luke 7:36-50, 2 Corinthians 9:7)

II. What you can expect from God!

1. [Enough](#) for today (Mathew 6:9-11)
2. [Freedom](#) from “things” (Luke 19:8)
3. [A generous](#) heart (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Application: An important word of beginning

Start by acting on the basics. Don’t [rob](#) God! (Malachi 3:8)

Small Group Questions

1. In your journey with the Lord, have you struggled with the battle between fear and faith concerning your finances? When and how did that reveal itself?
2. We learned from the widow of Zarephath that we must take the first step in our giving. Why is this always difficult for us? What have you done to be disciplined in taking initiative?
3. We learned that the Lord promises to supply enough for today. Why is that difficult for us? On the other hand, why is that reassuring?
4. The outcome of a lifestyle of giving is a generous heart. Why is this something that we should all desire?
5. What has been your experience with the clear summons to present the Lord with a tithe of your income? Share why this has been positive or difficult for you.



“Sacrificial Giving”

Matthew 6:19-34 (ESV)

I. How money exercises power over us. (see Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 12:15)

Greed = 1) a strong **dependence** upon money and material things; 2) the pursuit of accumulation and the **desire** to possess more, irrespective of need. Greed **blinds** us to our dependence or desire. (see Isaiah 44:18 ESV)

1. Greed hardens our heart so that we don't ask hard questions. (Pr. 23:7)
2. Greed can steal our life and our integrity. (Pr. 1:19, Pr. 28:20)
3. Greed can affect your family or loved ones. (Pr. 15:27)
4. Greed can bankrupt you spiritually or physically. (Pr. 13:7, Pr. 28:22)
5. Greed creates a false sense of security. (Pr. 11:28)

II. Why it exercises power. (see Matt. 6:21)

1. It brings us our **significance**.
2. It brings us our **security**.

Sacrifice Series / week 2

Pastor Doug Melder

November 19-20, 2011

III. How we can break it. (Matt. 6:19-20)

“Every treasure except Jesus will insist that you die to purchase it. Jesus Christ is the only treasure that has died to purchase you.”

- Tim Keller

1. Be a **trusting** follower. (Pr. 3:5-6)
2. Be **promiscuous** with your money. (Pr. 21:26)
3. Be **wary** of “ways that seem right.” (Pr. 14:12, 15; 22:3)

Small Group Questions

1. When it comes to what you treasure:
 - What shouldn't you be treasuring that you currently are?
 - What should you be doing differently with the treasures you already have?
 - As long as we're not materialistic or idolatrous, is it okay to have nice things?
2. Read the 5 descriptions of greed from the Proverbs with the verses as well.
 - Which one have you experienced or seen in your own life?
 - Is there one which is deeply challenging to you? Why?
3. Of the three ways to break the power of money in our lives, which one is most important for you and why?



“Sacrificial Giving”

Matthew 6:19-34 (ESV)

- I. How money exercises power over us. (see Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 12:15)

Greed = 1) a strong dependence upon money and material things; 2) the pursuit of accumulation and the desire to possess more, irrespective of need. Greed blinds us to our dependence or desire. (see Isaiah 44:18 ESV)

1. Greed hardens our heart so that we don't ask hard questions. (Pr. 23:7)
2. Greed can steal our life and our integrity. (Pr. 1:19, Pr. 28:20)
3. Greed can affect your family or loved ones. (Pr. 15:27)
4. Greed can bankrupt you spiritually or physically. (Pr. 13:7, Pr. 28:22)
5. Greed creates a false sense of security. (Pr. 11:28)

- II. Why it exercises power. (see Matt. 6:21)

1. It brings us our significance.
2. It brings us our security.

Sacrifice Series / week 2

Pastor Scott McCabe

November 19-20, 2011

- II. How we can break it. (Matt. 6:19-20)

“Every treasure except Jesus will insist that you die to purchase it. Jesus Christ is the only treasure that has died to purchase you.”
- Tim Keller

1. Make Jesus your precious (Pr. 3:5-6)
2. Become ridiculously generous with your money (Pr. 21:26)
3. Be cautious of “ways that seem right” (Pr. 14:12, 15; 22:3)

Small Group Questions

1. When it comes to what you treasure:
 - What shouldn't you be treasuring that you currently are?
 - What should you be doing differently with the treasures you already have?
 - As long as we're not materialistic or idolatrous, is it okay to have nice things?
2. Read the 5 descriptions of greed from the Proverbs with the verses as well.
 - Which one have you experienced or seen in your own life?
 - Is there one which is deeply challenging to you? Why?
3. Of the three ways to break the power of money in our lives, which one is most important for you and why?