



**SEEK THE GREATER TREASURE.**

South Florida is expensive but...

- 1) Is God still God in South Florida?
- 2) Is the Word of God still true in South Florida?
- 3) Are Jesus' words still relevant in South Florida?

Matthew 6:19-24

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.<sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,<sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"<sup>24</sup> "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.*

Jesus on money & the heart:

- Leave minor gains for major gains: There's a greater gain than **dust** and **rust** – Matthew 6:19

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,*

*"I have not met many people possessed by demons. But I have met a lot of people possessed by their possessions." – Dr. Ted Traylor*

- Leverage your possessions for eternity – Matthew 6:20  
*but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- Your money reveals your heart – Matt. 6:21  
*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- We cannot serve both God and money: we will use money to serve God or try and use God to serve money – Matthew 6:24  
*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.*

Q: What is stewardship?

A: Faithfully managing another's possessions.

Q: Why stewards rather than owners?

A: Because God has created the universe and therefore has rightful ownership of everything in it.

Psalm 24:1

*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*

Psalm 89:11

*The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.*

### Distinctions between Stewardship and Ownership:

- Ownership: "My possessions are mine. Therefore, I make the ultimate decisions about them."
- Stewardship: "I don't ultimately own anything. I did not create myself. God allowed me to acquire my possessions to use for His glory and my good. Everything I have is ultimately His so the buck stops with Him, not me."

1 Corinthians 4:7

*For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

Job 41:11

*"Everything under heaven belongs to me."*

"For most of us, the house we call "my house" was called "my house" by someone else a few years ago. And a few years from now, someone else will call that house "my house."" – Donald S. Whitney<sup>1</sup>

### What are your top 2 fears or questions about tithing and giving?

- What is tithing? Is it seeking the Word of God like it is your food? If I need to do so, the fear that I know nothing of it.
- I have no fear. We have been tithing for 20+ years.
- Can we give to family members who are in need?
- Do I tithe from gross or net?
- Does tithing/giving still apply to us in today's age? Matthew 23:23 touches on tithing but it doesn't sound like a commandment like in Malachi 3:10.
- That I won't have enough money to go shopping and do all the selfish things I like to do (talk about honesty).
- Having enough leftover to make ends meet.
- Happy to give!
- I believe in tithing. I've seen God work miracles in my life through giving. Therefore, I have no questions or fears.

- Should all the tithe still be given to the local church?
- Should I give a portion of my “tithe” to someone in need?
- No fear, but hope my finances will work out as I get older.
- Does giving to Missions or One Child count as tithing?
- Growing up we never tithed. We gave what we had so I’ve continued to do that, obviously not the right way. How does one overcome that tradition?
- No fear about tithing. My wife and I have been tithing since we were baptized in 2001.
- What if we have no income?
- Can tithing be other than money?
- Will it make a difference in the long run?
- I have no fear about tithing because God is faithful. The more I give the more I receive.
- What if I want to tithe but my spouse doesn’t have the faith to do so? What if that person prefers to give an amount he is comfortable with?

### Principles of generosity

1) Giving is an act of worship out of love for Christ – Philippians 4:18  
*“...an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”*

#### *Three kinds of giving:*

- Grudge**: “I have to.”
- Duty**: “I ought to.”
- Thanksgiving**: “I want to.”

2) Giving shows love and thankfulness for Jesus Christ – 2 Corinthians 8:9  
*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

Q: Then why give to the church?

- 3) The Church is the only organization in the world Jesus said He would build – Matthew 16:18 *“I will build my church.”*
- 4) Giving helps fulfill the Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20

Not all of us can go but all of us can help send!

5) Giving reflects trustworthiness – Luke 16:10-12  
*“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”*

6) Generous giving results in great blessing – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7  
*“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

### Next Steps of generosity

- Are you living for “The Long Game” (Eternity)?
- Are you willing to accept God’s principles for giving?
- Give systematically.
  - First things first: Every time God gives I give. Every time God allows me to be paid I give back to His work.
  - Set up online recurring giving: <https://gogracefellowship.org/give/>
  - When you give, pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for having something to give.
- Give proportionally.
  - New Christian? Start giving and see God work in your life!
  - Tithing: Give 10% of your income to the work of Christ through your local church.
- Give generously because Christ has been generous to you.

2 Corinthians 8:9

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

“Therefore I may affectionately beseech and entreat my beloved Christian friends to take this to heart, and consider that hitherto they have been depriving themselves of vast spiritual blessings, because they have not followed the principle of giving systematically, and giving as God prospers them, and according to a plan; not merely just according to impulse, not as they are moved by a missionary or charity sermon but systematically and habitually giving on principle, just as God enables them...Oh, my brethren, I believe if we realized the blessing, we would give thus on principle; and, if so, we should give a hundred times more than we do now.” – George Mueller

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<sup>1</sup>Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991), 135.