



Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

LUKE 21:1-4

GIVE

WHAT IS IT?

God commands us to be people of generosity and charity. The Old Testament gives us the principle of tithing (the word tithe means a tenth of all God gives us – Malachi 3:8-10). In the New Testament, we see the principle is expanded to give generously and radically. We can think of 10% as a starting point, knowing that **God is most concerned about a heart of cheerful giving.**

We give because:

- ▶ All we have is God's (Psalm 24:1); **He is the owner and we are managers.**
- ▶ **Love of Christ motivates us** to give (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- ▶ Therefore, we **give cheerfully and generously from the heart** (2 Corinthians 9:6,7), laying out everything before God, asking what he wants us to do with what He has given us.
- ▶ Giving, or lack thereof, **reveals the true desires** and priorities of our hearts (Matt 6:19-21).

We should not give out of guilt or manipulation, but out of gratitude.

HOW CAN WE DO IT?

While serving others involves the **time** and **talents** God has entrusted to us; giving involves the **treasure** He has entrusted to us.

Here are some questions to help guide your heart:

INTENTIONAL

- ▶ What does giving look like for me? Do I have a budget (a way to track what I am doing with God's stuff)? Do I budget giving first?
- ▶ Do I hold on to my possessions (really God's possessions) loosely or do I hold tightly?
- ▶ Is my giving dependent on circumstances?
- ▶ Am I giving generously to the local church?
- ▶ Am I taking care of my family?
- ▶ Do I regularly pray and ask God where else He would have me give?

AS YOU GO

- ▶ Am I willing to give more than I planned as God prompts me to?
- ▶ What is stopping me from giving more?
- ▶ Am I asking God to help me see opportunities to give? What are opportunities to bless someone today?