



Life's Only Mission

Matthew 6:19-21; Malachi 3:8-11; Deuteronomy 14:23b
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
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The Bottom Line: The church is the greatest organization and cause on the planet, and God promises to bless and multiply your resources when you are faithful in giving to His cause.

Introduction: The purpose of this series is to teach you how to be generous. My goal isn't to get you to give but to move beyond mere giving to being generous. Everybody gives something somewhere, but few people are truly generous.

Generosity is more than random acts of giving.

Promise: When you become generous, you will give more, save more, and consume less. Jesus promises happiness.

Generosity is the premeditated, calculated, designated emancipation of personal financial assets.

As we've discussed, our solution to the crazy – Great American Insanity Cycle is to flip it!

Most people consume first, save if they can, and give whatever's left over.

Flip It: Give first, save second, and live off the rest.

As a result, you will automatically receive the blessings and promise of that choice:

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“We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us (Ecclesiastes 5:15 TLB).” As we studied last week, since you cannot take it with you, you might as well get all of the blessing that God promises of being generous and giving it away.

Today is a bonus lesson: I want to present what I believe is the best cause on earth for your financial resources. The greatest cause that is most worthy of your financial resources is the local church!

Why?

1. **The Mission:** ... to lead people into a growing relationships with Jesus

Christ.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:18-20).”

2. **The Lesson:** ... we learn to always put God first in our life.

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your life (Deuteronomy 14:23b TLB).”

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21 NIV).”

3. **The Return:** ... enjoy the promise of God's floodgates of blessing.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty (Malachi 3:10-11).”

4. **The Future:** Other people join you in heaven

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).”

Giving is the only Scripture in the Bible where God actually throws down a challenge: Test me in this! See if you can outgive Me!

So, what do you think? Are you ready to test God in your giving? Are you ready for the blessing He promises?

Take the 6-Month Tithe Challenge

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Matthew 6:21.**
- Pastor, Sign Me Up for the 6-Month Tithe Challenge!**
- Stop Living the Great American Insanity Cycle.**
- Begin Giving First, Saving Second, and Consuming Last.**
- Attend *Freedom* Next Sunday.**