

# COMMAND: GIVE

## EXPANDED LEADER INFORMATION

<i>Looking Back</i>	<i>Looking Up</i>	<i>Looking Forward</i>
<b>1. CARE</b> • PRAISES/REQUESTS • PRAY FOR EACH OTHER  <b>2. LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY</b> • ABIDE? • MISSION STATEMENT? • PREVIOUS GOAL(S)	<b>3. WORSHIP + SEEK</b> • 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26  <b>4. VISION</b> • GREAT COMMISSION  <b>5. NEW LESSON</b> • COMMAND > STORY > READ > ASK > EXPLORE	<b>6. SETTING GOALS</b> • HOW WILL WE OBEY AND APPLY THE COMMAND?  <b>7. PRACTICE</b> • 20 SEC TESTIMONY   3 CIRCLES   OIKOS MAP  <b>8. COMMISSION</b>

### NEW LESSON

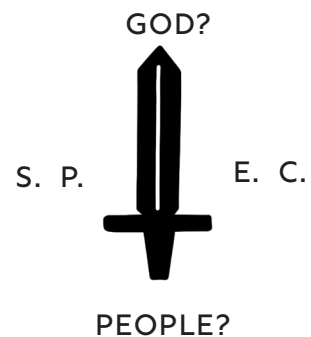
**READ THE COMMAND:** IN LUKE 6:38, JESUS SAYS...

**TELL THE STORY:** MARK 12:41-44 + MATTHEW 6:1-4

**READ THE STORY ALOUD**

**DISCOVER/ASK:** USE THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD TO DISCUSS THE STORY AND REVEAL ITS MEANING FOR OUR LIVES

- PRACTICE RETELLING THE STORY



#### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- The Lord notices the sacrifice of our offerings more than He recognizes the overall amount. The rich people gave a larger sum of money, but the poor woman gave a larger percentage of what she owned. This kind of offering caught Jesus' attention, which He found worthy of using as instruction for His disciples.

#### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE?

- Mark 12- The economy of humans is different than the economy of Heaven. We look at amounts, God looks at sacrifice.
- Matthew 6- We like people to see the good things we do and get credit.

#### ARE THERE ANY SINS IN THE PASSAGE TO AVOID?

- There are not any overtly mentioned sins in the Mark 12 passage. In Matthew 6:1-4 Jesus warns against turning your giving into a public display to receive personal honor or recognition.

#### ARE THERE ANY PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE THAT WE SHOULD BEHOLD ?

- Again, there aren't any promises in the Mark 12 passage, but in Matthew 6:1-4 you see that Jesus tells us God will reward our secret giving, whereas the recognition you get for publicly giving will be the only reward you receive.

## ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES IN THE PASSAGE TO FOLLOW?

- Give out of the abundance and poverty of your financial situation in life. The woman had little, yet still gave much (comparatively)

## ARE THERE ANY COMMANDS IN THE PASSAGE TO BE OBEYED?

- Give, but don't do so in a way that brings attention to ourselves.

## EXPLORE MORE:

### A. WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

- We give of our resources (money), our time, and our services. When it comes to finances, we see the example in Scripture of 10% of our money as far back as Abraham (Genesis 14:19-20). This 10% continued on through Jacob and was eventually included in the Law God handed down through Moses.

Many people ask the question, do we give of our gross income or our net income? The answer is gross. If I earn \$50,000 a year, the net income is what I get after the government takes its share. Tithing off the net income would be like saying the government deserves its share of my salary, but God does not.

### B. WHY SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

- We give as an act of obedience because we love God and as our Lord, we love to do as He says.
- We give because He gave first... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16). Giving is an act of reciprocation for all that we have been given (even if we are financially poor. In Christ, we have been given more than the riches of the world!)
- We also tithe as a way to show the Lord that we trust Him to provide for our every need!

#### Further Notes:

- Tithing 10% is the bare minimum. Offerings are gifts that we give out of the abundance of our hearts. These can be an above 10% tithe that we give to the church, or they can be gifts that are given toward other ministry purposes, like supporting missionaries or other ministries.

### C. HOW SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

- 2 Corinthians 9:7 says that we should give cheerfully, not under compulsion.
- Matthew 6:1-4 says that we should give secretly, and not for the purpose of being recognized or admired for our giving.

### D. WHO DO WE GIVE TO?

- Acts 4:34-35 details how the early church gave to all who had need.
- 2 Corinthians 9 shows how a collection was given to a church.

## SET GOALS:

- Ask the Lord if there are any ways that you could be a joyful giver toward your church or an individual this week. Are there steps you may need to take to free your budget up to give more cheerfully and on a regular basis?