

# Stewardship // David, 2 Samuel 7 // All-In, Message # 3

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2 Samuel 7, if you have your Bible. You've got plenty of time to find it because this intro takes about an hour. Not really, but close.

## All-In

We're in a season called "all-in," in which I am urging you to go "all-in" with the mission of God. **And during this time, we're introducing a new approach to giving here at our church.** Instead of giving in 3 different ways, we're combining all of these things into one lump fund that represents the totality of what we are called to as a church.

We're saying that let's go "***all-in for our families; for our neighbors; and for our world.***"

- **For our families** refers to what we'll spend on ministries right here in our church that reach and disciple people.
- **For our neighbors** refers to what we'll spend to expand our facilities to reach people in our church we're not reaching yet.
- **For our world** means money we will give away to see the poor helped and the gospel taken to people who have never heard it.

This is what we're called to as a church and we're going all-in on that, and we're asking you if this is your church home that you go all-in with that, too. We're asking you to consider what represents a total, sacrificial response of generosity by your family toward this mission.

- If you're new here—not talking to you.
- But if this is the church that God has led you to, well, this is the mission that God has given to his people, and his local church is his primary instrument for pursuing that mission, so I want to invite you, to urge you, to go all-in.

We believe that we are at what theologians call a kairos moment, which means a God-ordained church, in which he is giving us the opportunity, invitation, and command to expand our ministries. The video you just saw was about "**our neighbors.**" Page #.

These are people we need to expand to reach.

- We need to **expand our facilities.**
  - **Last week I showed you a chart:**
  - God commanded them (Isa 54:2-3) to expand the pegs of their tent—to think of those outside Israel that he wanted to bring in. And we believe he is calling us to do the same.
  - 68% growth; 3% growth
  - Not trying to remove the sovereignty of God. God gives all the growth. But we have to obey.
  - College students: 100 carrying the gospel around the world
- **Start new campuses.**
  - Upcoming Chapel Hill plant: 585.
  - We have chosen to pursue a multi-site strategy because we believe it is better for evangelism and discipleship.
    - Stay where you are; serve where you live...
  - Our 2 newest campuses are running 1000 each
    - Our Cary campus baptized 96 people last month, which gave them the highest baptism per capita ratio of any of our campuses.

- Some of the most exciting ministries to our community have grown up out of these campuses, like our I-58 ministry at the North Raleigh campus that has put Summit people into a very under-resourced neighborhood, and one in which we've seen people baptized and small groups started.
- Our SEE campus has the highest new member ratio per average attender ratio of any campus
  - Our campus pastor told me an incredible story of a drug addict who was saved through that ministry whose life has completely turned around. They have seen a large number of Hispanic people saved there.

Now, yes, I acknowledge that in this series I am asking you to consider your financial involvement in the mission of God here, and I'm asking you to commit to it, which I know for a few of you rubs you the wrong way—so let me say a few things.

First, if you tend to have a defensive, resentful attitude when this subject is brought up, let me at least ask you to consider whether that might indicate that something is amiss in your heart in regards to your money.

- You know that little red “**check engine**” light that comes on in your car? To me, that is a completely unhelpful indicator. It comes on, tells me to check the engine... and so I do. I open up the hood and check the engine. But, it just looks like an engine to me. What I really need are the various engine parts to be waving flags and pointing me. “Hey, over here... me... right here! Fix me.” It's too complex to just glance at it and figure out what is wrong.
- The human heart is too complex to know all that is going on within it. But when you have a negative reaction to Jesus' teaching on money, that's like the check engine light showing you something is wrong with your heart.
- Perhaps the reason you dislike discussion of this subject so much is that money is a god that you worship, and you don't like anybody messing with your idol. And maybe you should at least be honest with yourself about where your angst about this subject comes from. Fair?

I've tried to give you ways out of this if you have a different issue...

- Maybe you were part of a church that abused your trust with money. And maybe you don't trust us, and that's ok. I've encouraged you to find somewhere that you can trust the leadership before you do. As your pastor I want to see you go all-in with Jesus in his mission. I'd love for that to be here, but if it's not, I want to be somewhere.
- I've told you if you're new here I'm not talking to you...
- But if God has led you to this church, and if the local church is God's plan-A for the execution of his mission, then I believe you should go all-in with it, and that certainly has to include our finances.

### Introduction:

OK: This week I want us to consider a question that has plagued me for years. To be honest, I've been in quite a bit of misery about it. (And, you guys know me—whenever I am in misery about something I drag you along with me.) And that is, “How much am I responsible to give?”

- Here's my problem: (confession time): For one, **I'm a materialist**, and I don't like parting with my money. That's on one side. On the other side, I'm a legalist, and no matter how much I give, I think I ought to be giving more. There's always more need, and so I perpetually feel guilty.

I find that Christians fall into 1 of 3 errors when it comes to giving:

1. **Christians who don't give.** They don't believe their commitment to Christ includes a radical sharing of their resources, even though Jesus had more to say about our money than heaven and hell combined. They are the ones who resent when I talk about money precisely because this subject reveals their hypocrisy.

2. Second are what I call “**tithe Christians**”: They give 10% to fulfill a rule. It’s like a God-tax. You pay God off and get past it. That’s an error.
3. The third are what I call the **always-feel-guilty-Christians**. No matter how much they give, it’s never enough.
  - a. Remember the scene in *Schindler’s List* (you know, the kids’ movie)...
  - b. Many of you are like that. You are really generous people, but you still wonder, am I giving enough?

At different points in my life I’ve been in all 3 categories, and so I want to share with you some Scripture things God has given me over the last few years that I think have really helped me form a balanced view of money. King David is our character; he shows us what it looks like to go “all-in” with your resources. The conclusions might surprise you.

## 2 Samuel 7:1–21

[1] Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, [2] the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”

- At this point in his life *David has been* established as the King of Israel. God took David from the pasture, won battle after battle for him, and now has made him David’s greatest king. The land is at rest, the kingdom is prospering, and David looks around at all God has given him, and then his eyes fall on the **tabernacle**.
- The tabernacle was a tent God had instructed Israel to construct for him where his presence dwelt.
- So, David says to Nathan, “You know, this isn’t right. I live in a nice house that smells like cedar, and God lives in a tent. I should build him something nicer.
- Well, Nathan responds like any pastor responds when someone who is really wealthy comes to him and says, “I want to give something to God.” He says, vs. 3,

[3] And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

- “Go, my brother, and do all that is in your heart.”

But now, the plot twist: [4] But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, [5] “Go and tell my servant David, “Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? [6] I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.

[7] In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word... saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

- “David, did I say I needed a house? Did I ever say, “I’m tired of this drafty old tent”?
- “You trying to do me a favor like I need something from you? You think I need you to provide me a cedar house? Cedar is for hamsters, David. My streets are made of gold. You got no idea what my real house looks like up here.”
- And if needed a new place to live, David, I wouldn’t be coming to you asking you to spot me some money to build one.
- There’s a certain playfulness here, I think.

Now, watch this: [8] “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. [9] And I have been with you wherever you went and I have cut off all your enemies from before you.

And I will make for you a great name... [11]... And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that *the LORD will make you a house.*

- So, who is building *whom* a house? David is not building one for God; God is building one for David.
- God did not look down from heaven and say, “Oh, at last, someone rich enough to build my kingdom. I’m going to choose him because I need his money.”
- God created all this; he doesn’t need anything from us.

I love this: [18] *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? [19] And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD... [20] And what more can David say to you? [21] Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it.*

- If you underline stuff in your Bible, underline the word “sat” in vs. 18 and “know” in vs. 21.
- David started this discussion feeling like he needed to do a favor for God. He ends it by sitting and knowing and wondering at the glory of God.
- Salvation is not primarily about us doing something for God. Salvation is about *knowing* something *about* God—and sitting in stunned awe in the presence of God, amazed and overwhelmed and grateful for what he’s done for us.
- The house that God would build for David was not a temple made of bricks and wood, it was a house built on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ at the cost of his own blood.
- Yes, in Christianity you will do things for God, but not because God needs us. We do them we are stunned and amazed at what he’s done for us.

**OK, so I share this because it debunks one of the greatest misconceptions about money, and that is we have to give because God needs our money.**

- This is the posture of so many pastors. I preached like this for a while, but I have come to see it as harmful. Our God is not a weak, poor God who has needs. God made everything with the word of his mouth. He is a limitless supply of resources for his mission.
  - He proved this to his disciples over and over. He provided for their financial needs out of fish’s mouths. He did more in 15 minutes with 5 loaves and 2 fish than Bill and Melinda Gates could do in 10 lifetimes.
- God has no needs; he’s never had one; and if he did have one he wouldn’t come to us with it
- **Psalm 50:12-15**, *“If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all its fullness are mine... Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows (your obligations) to the Most High. And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will glorify Me.”*
  - You see what that shows us? God doesn’t approach us with needs. The gospel produces in us a heart of thanksgiving—a heart that wants to give back to God; a heart that wants to glorify God and see his kingdom come on earth.
  - And we glorify him not by talking about the great things we are doing for him, but by acknowledging the great things he is doing through us and in us.

So God doesn’t need our money. But he does tell us to pour our money to his kingdom, and David here is an example to us in 3 ways:

### **1. David wanted to leverage his money for God’s eternal kingdom**

- David knew that God’s house was the only one that would last forever, and he wanted to leverage his resources to be a part of that one.
- In fact, after God turns David down on this request, he says to him: **2 Chronicles 6:7**, *“Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.”* “David, it was a good thought. And God tells David that what he can do is collect the materials that his son Solomon will use to build the temple. And David said, *“Solomon my son is young and inexperienced...”*(I know he will be

the wisest guy who will ever live and all, but right now he's a teenager who can't balance a checkbook or remember to feed the dog. David says, **I will therefore make preparation for it. So David provided materials in great quantity before his death." (1 Chronicles 22:5)**

- David *wanted* to invest his money in God's eternal kingdom, which God said was a good thing.
- **Luke 16 parable:**
  - VERSE IN CONCLUSION?
  - People read this and they are like, "Whoa." God commending an unjust man? Here's what this parable means: even though this man is corrupt, he is wise or shrewd in the sense that he knows he only has a short amount of time with his master's resources at his disposal. He knows his fate is sealed with his master—he's going to be fired. So, if he's already ruined with his master, why not use his master's resources while he still has control over them to make some friends that might take care of him after he's lost this job. And Jesus is saying, "This is unethical, but on one level you can appreciate the shrewdness. This man is thinking more about where he's going rather than how to use what he has now to prepare for it than trying to hang on to what he's already lost."
  - So with you—if you know your time on earth is short, why not leverage the money you still have under your authority—money you can't take with you into the next life—and prepare for the life you are about to go into?
- Randy Alcorn, in one of the most formative books I've ever read on money, *The Treasure Principle*, says:
  - "You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead." No horse has ever been seen pulling a U-Haul. You can't take it with you...
- **For you people into stocks:** This is the ultimate insider-trading tip: Earth's currency will become worthless when Christ returns.
  - Randy Alcorn: "Financial planners tell us, 'When it comes to your money, don't think just three months or three years ahead. Think thirty years ahead.' Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, takes it further. He says, 'Don't ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty *million* years.'"<sup>1</sup>
  - Jesus said, **Matthew 6:19-20**, "**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**"

## **2. David was so grateful to God he wanted to give something to God to show his love for him**

- He saw all that God had done for him and he wanted to give in response.
- In fact, at the end of 2 Samuel God reveals the plot of land that the temple was to be built on, and tells David that he can provide the field for the temple. So David goes to the guy who owns it so he can buy it. And the guy, who is named Aranauh, says, "David, you can just have it." **2 Samuel 24:24**, But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not give unto the LORD my God that which... cost me nothing."
- This is amazing. David insists on paying for it because he knows the issue is not providing something God needs; the main point is the statement David's giving is making to God about his worth to David.
- So David says to Aranauh, I want to pay for it. Because I don't want to give offerings to God that don't really cost me anything.
  - "There are some gifts that are valuable for the good they can do in the world, and some gifts that are priceless for the statement they make about the heart of the giver and the value of the God they serve." (Is this in the all-in book?)
- There are many of you whose gifts to God don't really cost you anything.
- **Or you think of the woman in John 12...**

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<sup>1</sup> Randy Alcorn *Treasure Principle* 18

- *“There are some gifts that are valuable for the good they can do in the world, and some gifts that are priceless for the statement they make about the heart of the giver and the value of the God they serve.”*
- If David was grateful to God because of what he’d seen God do, how much more should we be grateful to God?
  - This always gets me: Luke 15... Jesus was so overjoyed with our return that he instinctively threw a lavish party. Does that not make you want to pour your gifts back out on him?
  - *“Command me”*

### **3. David did with his money exactly what God instructed of him**

- David recognized that all that he had belonged to God. He would do with it whatever God said.
- God owns our money, and so that’s our first thing—just obey. There are some clear instructions about our money he has given us in the Bible, and we are to obey those, and there are times God’s Spirit puts on our hearts specific things he wants us to give.
- We’ll talk about this more next week, but a lot of time when the Bible talks about giving, it says things like, “God stirred up so and so’s heart to give. When Moses collected things to build the temple, he said “let each one give as God puts it in his heart.” Paul in 2 Corinthians, “Let each one give as he purposes in his spirit,” in other words, as God lays it on his heart.
- Giving is supposed to be a Spirit-thing, a Spirit-driven thing, in which the Spirit moves in your heart and you listen to him and obey as he directs.
- *“I sometimes think the reason people don’t know what to give God is because they’ve never asked him what to give.”<sup>2</sup> Have you? I think God will stir up in your hearts what we need. I’m confident of that. I won’t play the Holy Spirit and tell you what that is, and you don’t have to feel guilty because I’m not telling you that you’re not giving enough. I just want you to ask the question.*

Those are the 3 principles that undergird every biblical teaching on money: God gives you money to invest in his kingdom; to give as offerings to God; and to do with what he tells you.

But he rarely gives you a specified amount. And I know that’s a disappointment to you rule-following, get-the-gold-star-legalists, but God’s focus on our giving is always on our hearts, never on our wallets. God doesn’t need our money. Generosity is not something he wants from us, but something he wants for us.

OK. Let’s go to the New Testament now. I want you to see Paul picks up these same 3 things exactly in his teaching on giving.

#### **1 Tim 6:17–19**

**As for the rich in this present age, charge them** (big question: what does the NT say to rich people?)

**“not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God...”** Riches have a way of stealing away your heart from God. It becomes the thing you hope in.

- Money becomes the thing that we think we need for life to be good. We can’t imagine a good life that doesn’t involve a healthy amount of money. Or it’s the one thing that we think has to be there in the future for us to feel secure.
- And very quickly money replaces God in our hearts.
- God is to be our primary hope; he gives us our fundamental identity; he provides our most solid security.

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<sup>2</sup> David Jeremiah *The Grace of Giving*

- When Jesus was speaking to a group of people in Matthew 6 about worshipping money, he identified 2 personality types who have a problem with money, but in completely different ways...
  - There are some who look at money as a source of beauty and significance. Money buys the good life. They work hard for money, and when they get it they spend it, because nice stuff makes them feel beautiful and important. Jesus says to them, “Consider the lilies, they neither toil nor spin, yet even Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed as beautifully as one of these.” He is pointing them to a beauty and significance God gives that goes way beyond what money can give.
  - But there is another personality type that looks at money as security—money is their safeguard against a rainy day, so when they get money they save it. To them, Jesus says, “Consider the ravens; they don’t pack away for the future but God takes care of them... Are you not,” Jesus says, “of more value to God than ravens?” BTW, ravens—ravens are not even good birds. Ravens are evil looking birds; universally regarded as pests. They are black, ugly, and ominous. They show up quoting “nevermore” and portend death. Nobody has a pet raven. Jesus says, “If God even takes care of the nasty old ravens, surely he’ll take care of you.” In other words, God can give a security way beyond anything that money can give.
  - Two personalities—the saver and the spender: both have set their hope—their affections—on the uncertainty of riches, rather than God.

So Paul says, “Tell them to set their hope on God; to make God their treasure and their trust...” “...who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” I love that. God gives money as a blessing. He is glorified when we enjoy the money he’s given us. This verse gave me the ability to start to enjoy some of the blessings of money without guilt. I’m a dad, and I love to buy things for my kids and I love to see them enjoy them. God is like that. He loves to bless us with money and watch us enjoy the blessings of it.

[18] They are to do good, (to take care of the poor; to advance the kingdom of God; to bless and support missionaries) to be rich in good works, If we could apply the word “rich” to one area of your life, what would it be? (rich in what you drive; where you live; or rich in good works? *There is nothing wrong with a nice car or nice house, but that shouldn’t come before being “rich in good works.”* That’s a challenge for some of you: start re-allocating your money until it would be said of you that you are mostly rich in good works, and then enjoy the rest of your money.

to be generous and ready to share, is that you? Are your hands off of your money, ready to give to anyone who has a need?

19] thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- He’s telling you, “Give away your money to what matters—God’s eternal kingdom.”

Do you see in this passage, what the focus is? Your heart.

Many people were condemned in the NT over money... not because God needed it and they kept it from him, but because what they did with their money indicated that their heart belonged to a false God.

God invites us to give so that we can go to war against the idolatry that corrupts and destroy our hearts. I gave you this statement last week. Here it is again: “The primary purpose of giving is not that God would get the money out of our pockets, but that he would get the idols out of our hearts.”<sup>3</sup>

**Three questions I ask about my giving:**

<sup>3</sup> Not original with me but unsure of the source Mark Driscoll maybe?

- What does what you do with your money show that you **delight** in?
- What does what you do with your money show that you **trust** in?
- What does what you do with your money indicate what **kingdom** you are building?

## 5 Different Kinds of Gifts Christians Should Make

In light of all that, I want to identify 5 kinds of financial gifts Christians should make. Your giving should consist of all 5.

### 1. Firstfruit giving

- I told you from the David story your primary obligation is to do what God commands you to do you're your money.
- Well, the first command God gives us in regards to our money is to give the firstfruit of it back to God. Firstfruit is a crop term. It referred to the fact that when God gave you a crop, you recognized it was from him and you acknowledged that by giving the first portion back to him. In the OT, that was almost always 10%.
- People say "tithe is not taught in the NT." That's true. But the principle of first-fruit giving is a universal, biblical giving principle.
- In the OT they gave 10%, so we say 10% good place to start.
- **In fact, God went so far as to say that the first-fruit belonged to him and if they touched it God considered it stealing.** You shouldn't touch the firstfruit. It doesn't belong to you. It belongs to God.
- That's the negative side of the command. The positive side is that there is a promise attached God multiplies what you have when you give the firstfruit back to him. **(references):**
- ***That firstfruit tithe ought to be given to your church. In the OT, that went back to God's chosen instrument of work on earth, and I think that's a good pattern to repeat.***
- (You say, "I can't afford to!" You can't afford not to!)
  - Too many stories of how God supplies your need. Mine with car wash check.
- People say, "Why should I have to give God my money?" That's your first indication something is wrong. God gave you the money; or the ability to make the money; you acknowledge that by giving the first 10% back to him.
- People say, "Well, this is just not a great time in my life; I've got a lot of expenses, and I just can't afford it." I want to be sympathetic, but can I tell you—there will **always** be excuses.
  - "I'm a college student."
  - "I've graduated and now I'm single. I've never had nice things because I've been in college so I think I deserve to devote a lot of my new money to getting some nice things for myself."
  - "I'm married. We're trying to pay off college debt and we need to get caught up."
  - "We're pregnant. We need to provide for our babies!"
  - "Our kids are getting older and they keep getting *more* expensive."
- From the time of my first job, my parents taught me to do this. I teach it to my kids. The first part belongs to God. Don't touch it.

### 2. Investments in God's kingdom

- The command: Lay not up for yourself treasures... I don't know how much clearer God could make it. Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth where moths and rust corrupt and thieves break through and steal. Invest your money in things that truly matter; things that are truly life.
- 5 minutes after you die, how will you wish you'd allocated your money? Start living that way now!
- Around our church we say that a healthy attitude toward money is (note: this is not a verse, but a good summation of biblical truth). *"Live and save sufficiently, give extravagantly."*



### 3. Love to God

- Like David and woman with alabaster flask. Just say to God, “I love you!” Thank you for what you did to save me.
- *“There are some gifts that are valuable for the good they can do in the world, and some gifts that are priceless for the statement they make about the heart of the giver and the value of the God they serve.”*

### 4. Love to others

- One of the things God has commanded us to do with our money is to share it with the poor.
- In fact, God gave you excess because there are some that are in need. Do you realize that? Do you know why God gave you excess? Because there are some he didn’t give enough to, and you are to share with them.
- This is “being rich in good works.”
- All kinds of people in the New Testament got condemned over their use of money, and this is almost always the issue. They took the money God had intended for them to share and hoarded it for themselves!

### 5. Holy Spirit prompted gifts

- Listening to the Holy Spirit. Just asking.

### Faith commitment card

- Left side:
  - First blank: how you are doing.
  - Firstfruits; heavenly investment. Sacrificial lifestyle.
  - Plus, kairos moment, what represents for you a response to that worthy of the moment? Not every moment is a kairos moment. Abraham didn’t have to leave his tent everyday. But if I am right that this 10-year anniversary is one, what represents a bold response from you worthy of the moment?
- Right side: 5 things. John 12. In that moment, she transferred something she treasured and trusted from her life and into God’s kingdom.
- We’ve had 100% buy-in from our staff: 1.7 million pledged by them alone

For many, their faith never becomes real until we hit this issue of money. Because that reveals what they trust in; what kingdom they most love and believe in; how much they get the gospel—shown by how grateful they are to God and how compassionate they are to the needs of others.

Story of girl with tithe

## Bullpen:

We saw in Acts 4:34–35 that the early believers routed their money through the local church because the local church was God’s instrument of holistic ministry in a community.

### Luke 12:13–21

I think the beginning of this story is so random. [13] Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus is teaching all these awesome things... some guy shouts out: “Hey, tell my brother to share!”

[14] But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” [15] And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” [16] And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, [17] and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ [18] And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19] And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” [20] But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ [21] So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- Nothing wrong with bigger barns. Some places in OT command you to build big barns.
- The problem is when your barns possess you and become the thing you live for and that keeps you from doing with your barns what God intends.
- God did not give you the abundance to just store in barns. He entrusted you with more because there would be people with need.
- There is no evidence this was a bad, godless guy. Jesus is talking to religious Jews, so this guy is a religious Jew. And successful. He just lived for money and it possessed him and he didn’t use it for the purposes God had given it to him for!

[22] And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. [23] For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. [24] Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! [25] And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? [26] If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? [27] Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. [28] But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! [29] And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. [30] For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. [31] Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

- Note the two things he used as analogies: Ravens are the most despised bird. If God takes care of the raven... the lilies are not a valuable flower. They are compared to grass. If God takes care of the grass. It is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. We gravitate toward the idea of God who is always miffed at the present us but loves the future us.
- As I’ve told you, he aims at two kinds of people... ravens and lilies.
- What do you trust in? Where is your treasure?

[32] “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. [33] Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. [34] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Make God your treasure; make him your trust. Honor him and give your money away and be rich toward eternity!

### Luke 16:1–11

[1] He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. [2] And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ [3] And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. [4] I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ [5] So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ [6] He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ [7] Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ [8] The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. [9] And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

[11] If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

People read this and they are like, “Whoa.” God commending an unjust man? What this parable means. The man finds out he only has a short time. Since he knows that, he leverages every bit of control he has to prepare for his post-job existence. Jesus is saying, “This is immoral, but on one level you can appreciate the wisdom of this. What does he care anymore about what his boss thinks? His boss is already going to fire him and his days there are limited. This man should think more about where he’s going rather than where he is, considering his time is so short.

So with you! If you know your time on earth is short, the best thing you can do with the money you still have under your authority is prepare your home in heaven with it.

The best thing to do with your money is invest it in the future kingdom. Your time here is short! Use your money in light of that.

- This is the ultimate insider-trading tip: Earth’s currency will become worthless when Christ returns. “Financial planners tell us, ‘When it comes to your money, don’t think just three months or three years ahead. Think thirty years ahead.’ Christ, the ultimate investment counselor, takes it further. He says, ‘Don’t ask how your investment will be paying off in just thirty years. Ask how it will be paying off in thirty *million* years.’”<sup>4</sup>
- **Illus.** Trying to load up your arms with stuff as you walk through the story, knowing you don’t have your wallet and can’t take any of it with you!
- **Be rich toward God**
- 
- Opportunities to sign up serve: explain that it is not just about money
- Luke 16: A poor man with a disease would have been assumed to have been a sinner. They excused lack of generosity by saying, “They deserve that.” This guy wanted to eat the excess. Like if you have a 2 year old and you leave a restaurant it looks like a food grenade has gone off!
- [9] But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds

of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- [11] But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

So God doesn't need our money. So then the question is, "What God want me to do with the resources he has given us?"

So let's go to the New Testament, but before we go there, let's make sure we solidify the 3 things we learn about what we should do with our money from David's story.

- David invested his money in God's future kingdom (Luke 16)
- David made an offering of grateful love (2 Chronicles 24)
- David did with his money exactly what God instructed of him (Firstfruits; Holy Spirit gifts)

From NT: From Luke: Luke is a doctor. Rich. I think he thought a lot about this.

3 takeaway principles:

### **1. The issue is your heart**

- What does what you do with your money show that you trust in?
- Delight in?
- I know your mouth talks a good game, but what does your wallet say? Does it betray you?

### **2. Your money is given to you as a tool to love God and invest in his kingdom**

- Don't lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven

### **3. Do what God says with your money**

- You should frequently lay it at his feet and offer him a chance to put his finger on it.
- Next week I will ask you to identify 5 things

## **Discarded**

- In **Haggai 1** it talks about God "stirring up the hearts" of certain people to build the temple.<sup>5</sup>
- In **Exodus 36** it does the same, it says that Moses told the people to bring what the Lord commanded each of them. Each of them searched their heart and it says that God laid various things on different individual's heart. When it was all said and done, they had more than they needed to build the temple.

**2 Corinthians** says to let "each one give as he has purposed in his heart,"<sup>6</sup> in other words to listen to what the Holy Spirit puts in your heart to give.

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<sup>5</sup> Haggai 1:13-14

<sup>6</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:7

You could summarize the point of this whole series by saying that if God has brought you to be a part of this church I want you to go *all-in* with the mission here. The “All-In Initiative” is us saying, “As a church, let’s go all-in for *our families; for our neighbors; and for our world.*” A few key components there:

1. **First, “For our families; for our neighbors; and for our world”** is a summary of whom we as a church believe are to make disciples.
  - a. **For our families** refers to people we must disciple right here within our own church;
  - b. **for our neighbors** refers to other people we need to expand to reach in our community;
  - c. **for our world** means people disconnected from us that we need to resource other ministries to reach.
  - d. All-in is about going all-out, because we’re not inward focused as a church; we want to focus on the glory of Jesus and the lost he died to save. It’s the only right response to the gospel.
2. **Second, “The local church is the focal point of ministry in the New Testament.”** We believe the church is God’s primary instrument for doing his work in a community. We learn that from the book of Acts. You don’t find a lot of ministry in the book of Acts disconnected from a church. The local church was the focal point of their giving and the hub of their ministry. The local church is God’s plan-A for the execution of his mission. It’s like God’s aircraft carrier where believers are empowered to carry out the mission of God in the community.
3. **Last, “we’re introducing a new approach to giving during this season.”** Instead of giving in 3 different ways, we’re combining all of these things into one lump fund that represents the totality of what we’re called to as a church. **For our families:** ministries right here in our church. **For our neighbors:** people we need to expand our facilities to reach; **for our world:** teams we need to resource and send out to carry the gospel into new places.

We, as a church, are going “all-in” for our mission, and we’re asking you to go all-in. We’re asking you to consider what represents a total, sacrificial response of generosity by your family.

- If you’re new here—not talking to you. Take some time to check things out; to kick the tires.

But if God has led you here, go all-in. The Lord Jesus wants you to go all-in with his mission, and the local church is his instrument for you to do that.

The video you just saw was about “**our neighbors.**” 2 focal points there. BOOK PAGE #?

- We need to **expand our facilities.**
  - **Chart:** 68% growth; 3% growth
  - Not trying to remove the sovereignty of God. All grace, all growth starts with him.
  - If we expand the pegs of our tent, we facilitate the more that can be reached through our church.
- **Start new campuses.**
  - Upcoming Chapel Hill plant
  - We have chosen to pursue a multi-site strategy because we believe it is better for evangelism and discipleship.
    - Evangelism
    - Discipleship

I am asking you in this series to consider your financial obligations, which I know rubs some of you the wrong way. It’s part of a much larger whole, and there’s no way we can think about going all-in with the mission of God and leave out our resources.

But... if you tend to have a defensive, resentful attitude whenever this subject is brought up, let me at least ask you to consider whether that might indicate that something is wrong in your heart on the subject of money.

- You know that little red “**check engine**” light that comes on in your car? That is such an unhelpful light. It comes on, tells me to check the engine, and so I open up the hood and do exactly what it says. But it looks like an engine to me. What I really need are the various engine parts to be waving flags and pointing me. “Hey, over here... me... right here. I’m hurt.” It’s too complex to just glance at it and figure out what is wrong.
- It’s hard to understand something as complex as your own heart, and so how you react to Jesus’ teaching on money is like the check engine light showing you something is wrong with your heart.
- So could I ask you in this series to at least consider that? I’ve tried to give you ways out of this if you have a different issue...
  - Maybe you were part of a church that abused your trust with money. And maybe you don’t trust us, and that’s ok. I’ve encouraged you to find somewhere that you can trust the leadership before you do. As your pastor I want to see you go all-in with Jesus in his mission. I’d love for that to be here, but if it’s not, I want to be somewhere.
  - I’ve told you if you’re new here I’m not talking to you...
- But will you at least *consider* the question that perhaps the reason you dislike discussion of this subject so much is that money is a god that you worship; your money is at the core of your identity and your security, and so you don’t like anybody messing with your idol, because nobody likes to have their god attacked? Can you at least be honest with yourself about where your angst about this subject comes from?
  - [10] *And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and I will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more...*
  - **rule follower**. So I want you to tell me what the law is, so I can do it and then forget about it. Both of those things are natural to my heart but the gospel goes to war with them both. **Illus.** Trying to load up your arms with stuff as you walk through the story, knowing you don’t have your wallet and can’t take any of it with you!
  - Last week: You should ask yourself, “*Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I would have given away while I still had the chance?*” When you come up with an answer, why not give it away now? Why not spend the rest of our lives closing the gap between what we’ll wish we would have given and what we really are giving?”<sup>7</sup>
  - **Psalm 90:12**. God give us the ability to see our lives from eternity’s viewpoint!