# Class 6 - EQUIP - Giving is a Blessing for Healthy Stewards

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## 1 Sermon Ideas and Talking Points

APPLICATION

### Giving is a Blessing for Healthy Stewards

Blessed stewards understand that giving is part of living Beyond Blessed.

**The 3 Types of Giving:**

Tithes, Offerings and Extravagant Offerings

What are each:

**1. Tithes :**

A tithe is 10% given to the church.

Biblical Basis: The practice is rooted in scriptures like Malachi 3:10 , which encourages believers to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Where you are spiritually fed - local church

Purpose: Tithes are used to support the church's operations, ministries, and outreach programs.

**2. Offerings :**

Offerings are voluntary gifts given above and beyond the tithe.

- Biblical Basis : Offerings are mentioned throughout the Bible, such as in 2 Corinthians 9:7 , which says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Purpose : Offerings can be designated for specific needs, such as missions, building funds, or helping those in need.

NOTE: You do not give offerings in exchange of Tithe.

**3. Extravagant Offerings :**

Extravagant offerings are significant, often sacrificial gifts that go beyond regular tithes and offerings.

Biblical Basis : An example is found in Mark 12:41-44:

The Widow’s Offering

41 Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. 42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.43 Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. 44 For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

Mark 12:41-44 (NLT)

Purpose : These offerings are usually given out of deep gratitude, faith, or a desire to make a substantial impact.

Each type of giving reflects a different level of commitment and sacrifice, but all are acts of worship and trust in God's provision.

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APPLICATION

To give either or all three types requires equipping to become a healthy steward.

Foundation for Living a best blessed life walks on 2 legs:

**Stewardship**

**Generosity.**

Stewardship is managing the resources God has entrusted to you.

**God is the owner:**

Deuteronomy 10:14: “To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.”

And

Haggai 2:8: "'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty."

**You are the manager:**

Yes, the Bible teaches we are stewards of God's resources.

1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

As you take steps into Stewardship and Generosity, God comes in and supernaturally blesses you according to your ability.

With each step you find yourself blessed to give more!

### The Parable of the Talents

[14] "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. [15] And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Matthew 25:14-15 (NKJV)

The Bible emphasizes that those who are faithful with what they have been given will be entrusted with more. This principle is highlighted in several passages:

2 Corinthians 9:6-8: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

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APPLICATION

## OFFERINGS

We’ve covered the Tithe – That is bringing back to God what He first gave us.

Offerings are voluntary gifts given above and not in place of your Tithes.

Offerings can be designated for specific needs, such as missions, building funds, or helping those in need.

Our obedience to a holy God is what redeems us through offering firstfruit.

Our Firstfruit – first giving is what redeems the rest.

For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy;* and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches.

Romans 11:16 (NKJV)

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**APPLICATION**

### Extravagant Offerings

So, where is your heart on the topic of big, sacrificial generosity?

Do you have a generous heart or a selfish heart?
The Anointing at Bethany

12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, 5 “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.”

John 12:1-8 (NKJV)

Two Main Questions:

- Why did she want to give such a generous gift to the Lord?
- And why did it bother Judas so much?

Two hearts are revealed in this passage:

a generous heart

a selfish heart.

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APPLICATION

What’s interesting is how the giving of money revealed both hearts!

**Selfishness is the enemy of generosity!**

How much do you think constitutes an extravagant gift?

Especially when God owns it all!

Think of heaven: It has gold streets, diamond walls, pearly gates, 1380 miles high!

Mary gave oil worth one year’s wages to pour out on the feet of Jesus!

(300 Denarii: Plural of Denarius) She poured one year’s salary on his feet!

2023 average American income was $48,060 – The 300 Denarii was equal to one year of her wages.

Can you imagine buying perfume or cologne for $48,000????

And then pouring it on someone’s feet!!

You didn’t even get to dab behind your ears.

Did Jesus see it as a waste or was he looking at her heart?

Do you think there is anything that we could give that would impress the owner of the universe?

The most extravagant gift you can give to God is yourself!

And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV)

Mary wasn't just giving something of monetary value. She was giving her heart!

Jesus does not have our hearts if our hearts are had by money.

And her generosity did NOT go unnoticed by Jesus!

Matthew 26:13 I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.

God always rewards giving with the right heart.

What a Powerful Testimony for Mary.

Are we willing to give Him everything… or is there a level you stop?

There are many examples of extravagant giving in scripture.

- David's gift to the temple would equal 21 billion dollars today.
- Solomon offered 1000 sacrifices to God.
- The widow's 2 mites were an extravagant gift.
- It was not the amount that matters, it's the attitude behind the amount.
- Abraham offered his son.
- And ultimately God offered His Son.

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APPLICATION

**Time for Activation**

Take a couple of minutes and ask, “What is Holy Spirit saying to me about living the life of a Healthy Steward?”

Congratulations for completing this Equip Class – Healthy Stewardship

Next week we will celebrate with a night of worship & pizza