

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Encounters
Message: The Generous
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 13, 2025

When it comes to our money and giving, we can be very sensitive. It surprises people to find that Jesus spoke and taught more about money than many other topics. He did so because He recognized the power that money and possessions can have on us.

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Luke 16:13 (NLT)

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

Luke 12:34 (NLT)

God doesn't need our money, but He deserves our full devotion. Regular, generous giving reminds us that God is our Savior, Leader, and Provider.

The purpose of tithing (giving the first 10% of your income) is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

Imagine that, like the widow in our story, Jesus is watching you in your decision about giving to your church. Would He see generosity driven by heartfelt devotion to Him or something else?

A few questions:

Where am I in my giving to my church? How much or what % of my income do I give?

Does my giving reflect growing devotion and gratitude to Jesus?

If not, what holds me back?

What do I think God wants me to do as a next step?

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TLB – The Living Bible

MESSAGE NOTES



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¹ While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. ² Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. ³ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. ⁴ For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.”

Luke 21:1–4 (NLT)

⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” ⁸ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NLT)

Two contrasting life views:

1. One group sees themselves primarily as GETTERS. They put their hopes and desires first, so they don’t miss out. God and others come later. Their giving is generally...

Relatively small.

Reluctant.

Pressured.

2. Another group recognizes their opportunity as GIVERS. Trusting God as their Savior and Leader, their devotion leads them to depend on Him and be like Him in all they do. Their giving is characterized by...

Generosity.

Willingness.

Cheerfulness.

The bottom line:

“If giving tells a story, what is mine saying?”