

We Give

Good morning. My name is Jeff and I am one of the pastors here at City Church. **Go ahead and turn in your Bibles to 2 Corinthians chapter 9.** We have been in a series called Church Matters. Our goal for this series is to look through the scriptures and spend time talking about why the things we do here on Sunday morning matter. Because it is incredibly easy to settle into a rhythm of life of doing things and forget why you do the things you do. Particularly when it comes following after God, we miss out on tons of beautiful things when we forget the whys and only remember to do the what's. And specifically, if you have been around our church family for a while, you will notice we have spent a lot of time and energy talking about how being a part of a church is more than just what happens here on Sunday. While that is true, we also want to make sure being a part of a church is not less than what happens here on Sunday as well.

This week we are gonna talk about financial generosity. That's right everyone, buckle up, we're talking about money today: everyone's favorite topic to talk about in church, right after circumcision. Wait...y'all's churches growing up didn't talk about circumcision? That's weird. And look, I get it, I have heard plenty of church sermons surround the topic of money and at the end of it it's a big rally for a building campaign and they bring out the thermometer and you start coloring it with a dumb red sharpie yet somehow it's always different shades of red. Want to know something that grinds my gears? Get some matching red sharpies if you know you're going to be coloring in a giant thermometer. Or, creepier example, maybe you have heard some churches go as far as asking their members to submit their W2's to make sure they are tithing the correct amount. So at the end of the sermon today, please drop those off in the baskets as you walk out (please don't).

My point is, I understand the hesitancy surrounding the topic of money when we have seen it modeled poorly. Yet, at the same time, money is the 2nd most talked about topic in Jesus' ministry. It's easy to see when it comes to the topic of money, Jesus sees it as a major part of what it looks like to follow after him and the transformation of being one of his disciples. And history proves it.

When you study Christianity through the early church, one of the clearest markers of the good news of Jesus taking root is that it radically changes the way people handle their money. In Acts 2, the starting place of the Christian faith and the formation of the very first church, one of the first things that happens is that people start selling their possessions and giving to the apostles to support the church and meet needs. Something had changed them to their core, and that change fundamentally altered the way they thought about their money. They went from being close-handed to open-handed.

This makes sense, because while he was on Earth, Jesus said that "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What we see from the early church was that

their hearts had indeed been changed, because their budgets changed. That's a one-to-one, tell-tale sign. Historical accounts from this time period repeatedly express awe at how generous Christians were. A few hundred years after Acts 2, an emperor in Rome, who was really frustrated, wrote that his people should basically be ashamed, because these followers of Jesus took care not only of their own poor, but of Rome's poor as well. And everyone wants to become a follower of Jesus because they see the beauty of these Christian's lives regarding their generosity and taking care of the poor. And this emperor hated the idea of Christianity and was frustrated because more and more people are becoming Christians because of how they were taking care of the least of these.

So we are going to spend some time talking a bit about what drove the early church to see their money in this way, where it changed the world. We will pick up in 2 Corinthians chapter 9, Paul is writing to raise support for a ministry he wants to start to help serve the poorer Christians in Jerusalem. There was a famine and people were really struggling. And here, Paul gives them some reasons why, as Christians, we are financially generous. Let's read the whole passage and then we'll go back and highlight some things. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

The word cheerful here is the Greek word hilaros. As in, hilarious. So what God is after in his people is hilarious giving. Happy giving. Eager giving. That's the culture we want to create in our church. Happy to meet needs, smiling as we fund ministry, giggle in our hearts as we support good causes and meet specific needs.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

I just want to give you 5 reasons for Christians to give highlighted from this passage. This won't be exclusive, there are tons more reasons the bible will say why as followers of Jesus we are called to give. Truth be told, I'm just hoping 1 hits enough to motivate you to start seeing the importance of giving, that's a win for me. Hope I will go 5 for 5 but no promises.

And if you are here today and don't know where you are at with Jesus, here is all I want you to know: You have a God who loves you deeply and wants you to know him. He is not trying to take your money, if anything he wants you to know that he is willing to give up everything, and has, to have you as part of his kingdom. Everything I am unpacking here will only make sense for those of us that follow after Jesus. But for those of us in that category, here are some biblical reasons for generosity.

1) God provides for those who give.

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Paul uses an agricultural connection here. And in an agrarian society, most everyone would have immediately nodded in agreement, this is common sense for them. He says when you plant a lot of seeds, you'd expect to see a lot of growth and fruit. If you plant a few seeds, then you'd expect little fruit. That's the image and he's talking about financial giving.

Now this concept has certainly been so poorly and misunderstood at times. This idea gets hijacked in so many unhelpful ways that set people up for failure in their faith, and I want absolutely nothing to do with that. I have no interest whatsoever in making you think that God is going to pour out material blessings on you and you're gonna get your dream house and your dream car and a standard of living that meets your list of demands. When people think their obedience obligates God to cause their life to go a certain way, they are set up to be very disillusioned. And it goes against so many of the other things scripture says, including the fact that Jesus was poor and homeless, Paul, who wrote this says in Philippians that he has spent plenty of time being hungry, poor and mistreated and says he can endure all of it because and quote "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Paul quotes Tim Tebow here. All the apostles ended up being killed or tortured for their faith in Jesus, John the Baptist was beheaded for doing everything he was supposed to. So this scripture obviously cannot mean that if you are obedient, God will make your life go all the ways you prefer.

But with that said, the inspired Word of God says "When you give sparingly, you will reap sparingly. When you give bountifully, you will reap bountifully." It doesn't mean just material reaping. It's an all of life blessing. But it's also not less than material blessing. And that challenges the way we often think about generosity. And it has to mean something. These are general truths, the way God has set up things to work, and not specific promises about how much you'll make or what kind of car you'll drive. The deeper truth that they point us to is "Hey, when you trust God and give generously, he is

going to take care of you! God will make sure you have what you need to glorify him each day.” It’s a promise from scripture, in 1 Corinthians 10. This doesn’t mean that if we are generous, God will give us everything we **want**. It means that when we are generous, God will give us everything we **need**. Those are different.

And I’m sure a lot of us heard stories of people being generous and then God rewarding them. That people gave radically to the point where they have nothing left and then God miraculously provides for them. Here’s what I know happens when we encounter these stories: each of us probably have an inner voice going “Yea, I’m sure God will provide for *them*. But I doubt he’s going to do it for me.”

It is very difficult to believe in God’s provision for you theoretically. However, once you have experienced God providing for you when you have nothing left, you begin to see his promises on this are actually true.

Giving, and especially giving until it forces you to change your lifestyle, is kind of like a trust fall. Has anyone ever done a trust fall? It’s that cheesy thing that you’ve done at a youth group or a school activity? You have to close your eyes and fall backwards and trust this person you vaguely know does not hate you and will actually catch you. It’s slightly terrifying, is it not? Yep. And there are times where true, sacrificial generosity feels a little like that. It’s standing up on that platform, closing your eyes, and trusting that the others are going to catch you. So Paul is speaking to a deep seated anxiety issue here and saying “God is going to catch you!” God’s gonna provide for you.

The reality is our giving is not how much we have financially, our giving is a matter of trust. Do we actually trust God will take care of us? A major heart issue at play with any lack of generosity is that money provides tangible security, it makes us feel ok in the world. Like if something bad happens, we feel we are ok because of this money that I got. And giving it away can make you feel less secure. It’s an issue of trust. That’s the tension we feel: what might happen if I give this away? And God says whoever reaps bountifully, will also sow bountifully, that he will take care of us, that he will look out for us.

In order to give, we don’t need more money, we need more trust. The amount of money we have is really not the deciding factor in our giving. It’s about whether or not we trust God to take care of us. **And maybe, just maybe the way he takes care of us isn’t by giving us the standard of living we’d prefer but instead filling us with the ability to be content with the lower standard of living we have because we gave so much away. Maybe that’s part of what his provision looks like.**

That’s the first reason. Here’s the second. I’ll cover it quickly.

2) Our giving brings God delight.

7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for *God loves a cheerful giver.*

God loves a cheerful giver. That we happily trust him to provide and He likes it when we happily share. That we know he is gracious, that he is good, that he will provide and take care of us. God really likes it when we believe in those things. And we give money away. It brings him delight.

My son Luke is 3.5 years old and boy, kids are just so....selfish. Like I didn't need to teach him how to snap toys away from other people or yell when something he likes is taken away by another kid. He didn't learn that from me or Callie. There's never been a time where I watch him play with his favorite balloon, then I jump out and take it away and yell THIS IS MY BALLOON while laughing maniacally. This was not learned from observing the world around him. This is ingrained behavior, kids are selfish.

Yet, when I see him step into sharing a toy, or give something away, particularly his most favorite things in life right now, things he would trade me and his mother **for** in an instant: give things away like fruit gushers or oreos. It brings me so much joy to see him share those things. Or do something that is selfless in nature that we've been training him to do, I just light up. I'm like, "Yes! That's so wonderful that you just did that. You're getting it!" Seeing him be generous or selfless absolutely makes me smile. I love that you know you are so taken care of, you are freed up to share everything, even your most precious possession.

Now let's not misunderstand that: it's not saying God's affections for us are manipulated or lessened by us being generous. Just like Luke, his status as my son is not on the line. My wife Callie and I are not like, "Now you better share a toy if you want to stay our child." But when he shows the fruit of beginning to grow to have the kind of soul I pray that he will have, I can't help but delight in that. It brings me joy and I know it's good for him.

When you begin to see God as your Heavenly Father who delights in you and desires to have a deep relationship with you, you begin to want to do things that please him. Or avoid things that displease him. The life of a follower of Jesus can be understood as simple as that. We do not have a God who created our universe then steps back and just watches how things turn out. We have a God who loves us deeply and the bible describes him as a good father.

God says that when we understand how gracious he is towards us, and our hearts are changed so that we begin to happily share what we have, he really enjoys that. He really likes it. He knows there is plenty to go around, that he will take care of us, and he loves it when we know that too. He is, in some way, like a dad whose kids (hypothetically) fight explosively all the time and hoard things for themselves, seeing them share and going "Yayy!! Look at you learning to share! That is beautiful and makes me smile."

3) Giving is good for us.

11 You will be *enriched* in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

As we give generously, out of grace, cheerfully as stewards, our lives are enriched in every way. Our souls are formed to be the kind of souls we were meant to have. This is an enriched life.

The reality is, a lot of us really believe that our joy and contentment rest on our possessions and money. We genuinely believe there is a direct link to how much money and possession we have to our ability to be content. For some of us it's having money in the bank...we feel secure and okay because our money is there to take care of us. For others of us its possessions, a certain level of quality of possessions, clothing, cars, or home furnishings that begin to feel mandatory for us to be content. For some of us it's vacations or experiences we need to have before we can be content. For some of us is our retirement savings, until we have a certain amount in our retirement portfolio, we will not be taken care of. Our inner monologue says "I cannot possibly be okay with what I currently have."

And each of us are living in a time where all of us are pelted with reasons we should be unhappy and discontent. This is what is thrown at you all day every day in the world in which we live. You do not have what you need for joy and contentment, but this product or this person or this car or this situation or this place or experience can deliver to you the joy that that so far has escaped you. That is the missing link you need to have contentment. This is how people sell it to you and it is constant.

And it messes us up. Do you know how many of your fears, how much of the complexity of your life and how much stress revolves around the idea of money? And then there's all the pressure to look a certain way and to drive a certain way. Do you realize how silly it is that you feel better about yourself by what you drive, what you wear and where you can live?

And then there becomes all this pressure to provide certain things for our kids that past generations would find silly. What you're supposed to provide for your family is ridiculous. "I just want to give my kid every opportunity." Can I ask you a question? Have you ever been around a kid that's gotten every opportunity? Can you be honest real quick? Did you like that kid? Your giggle tells me all I that need to know. Do you know what happens to little human beings who were never told no? Were never taught to sacrifice? Who were never taught to be content with what they have? They always think they need more and more. Do you know how little humans who were given every single opportunity turn out? They are almost always disliked and probably on the news. And not for a good reason. That's how they often turn out. As it turns out, children need to learn to give, to sacrifice, to share, and serve just as much as we do. Giving is not only good for you, but it's also good for your kids to learn to give, to sacrifice, to not get everything they want, and to prioritize others.

The enriched life is one that understands that God has dealt graciously and generously with us, that God gives us meaning and identity that we cannot buy. You can not buy the identity that you have, as a beloved child of your Heavenly Father. So we handle our money differently and become managers, not owners, which frees us up from a thousand shallow trivialities, stresses and anxiety that choke the life out of most. So we're not in the constant quest for more, more, more and more, not in regards to trinkets. It's all going to be in a landfill or a garage sale or Facebook market place sooner or later.

Now this creates an unreal amount of freedom. Here's why. My car doesn't define me. So I do not need to feel better or worse about myself based on the vehicle I drive. My home does not define me. Are you tracking with me on this? My home does not make me feel better about or worse about myself. That's not how it works. No, I'm a manager of those things. I use those things for the ministry of reconciliation. If I have a nicer one to manage, great. If I have a not-so-nice one to manage, that's great too.

I'm about to tell you something that could change your life. You, right now, have every single thing that you need to be content¹. I am fully aware I am speaking to a room full of people that live in vastly different tax brackets. Some of us here are going, what is a tax? And please explain to me like I'm 5. That each and everyone of us right now have everything we need to be content. There is not a certain amount of prosperity or material possessions or money in the bank that is required for you to be content. There may not be a more revolutionary statement that I could make in America.

And here's the secret. The more you buy and upgrade, the more you will believe that you *don't* have enough. But the more you give, the more you will realize you already have enough. If you give away what you have, you'll find contentment. If you keep what you have, you will never have enough. Never.

So giving is good for you because it allows you to have an enriched life where you are freed from needing more and more, where you are free to be content no matter what, where you are not defined by what you have, where you are freed from the fear and anxiety and stress of the pursuit of if I just have more, I will be taken care of. This enriched life centers on having a Heavenly Father that will provide for you and your identity of being his beloved child that can not be taken away.

4) It all belongs to God.

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Here's what he's doing...He's breaking down what we might call "the myth of ownership." So some guy goes, "Oh, I baked a loaf of bread." Paul is saying, "Well, where did you get the bread?" "Well I used the wheat to get the bread." "Where did you get the wheat?" "I had to plant a seed." Where did you get the seed?" ". . ." "Ah ha, Ultimately God is the

¹ 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, Hebrews 13:5

giver. Everything comes from God. So God here is attacking the myth of ownership. Which means you don't own anything. I don't own anything. That grace is the foundation of our generosity, but that foundation is built upon the idea that we're managers and not owners.

Which means we do not own anything; we simply manage what we've been given. This is a fundamental shift in thinking. The grace of God enlightens us to the mercy of God, and in turn we see ourselves as managers. What do you have that isn't His? What do you have that He has not given you? What do you have that He had a hand in? What do you have that He can't rightly stand over and go, "Actually, I gave you that..."?

Now the first reaction of the average person when they hear that is: "Wait a minute. I have worked to get where I am now. I paid my own way through school. No one gave me a handout. I studied. I trained. I worked hard. I became good at what I do. What do you mean everything I have is His when I have worked for everything I have?"

I am not taking away from your hard work. I'm glad you went to school. Keep up the hard work. Don't start slacking off. What I am saying is if God hadn't given you the abilities, resources, circumstances and opportunities, your hard work wouldn't matter. You would not be where you are today. Like if you were born on the side of a mountain in the Himalayas in the 13th century, you'd be poor no matter how hard you worked. It does not matter how smart you are or how hard you worked, you would still be poor. It doesn't matter how early you wake up and how many hours you work. You would live your whole life poor. So the fact that you were born here, in this time, with the abilities that you have, the resources that you have, the circumstances and opportunities you have, that happen to connect to the ability to make money now, that is all of God.

Warren Buffet, a multi-billionaire and one of the richest men to ever live, knows this. And he's not even a Christian. He said this:

"I'm just lucky to have been in the right place at the right time. Another place, another time, I wouldn't have been as successful."

If he was born as a caveman he would've not lived very long due to his scrawny body. It just so happens he was born at a time and being smart about investing, allowed him to become a billionaire. By forces outside his control, he was able to turn fortunate raw materials into a ton of wealth.

The reality is, all of the raw materials you needed to be where you are today are a gift. Every single thing you have, and every single ability you have to work and get money to buy more things or save for your future, is all given to you by God. And it can all be taken away very, very quickly. So in reality, you don't own anything.

I can tell you a story where a time in my life I have seen this lived out beautifully. In 2020, at the rise of the pandemic my family and I found ourselves in a situation where we had no place to live until our new house was built. My wife, Callie, me, and our 18 month old

toddler Luke. Amazingly, we had 2 families that offered us to live with them. Mind you, this is at the beginning of the pandemic, where we were still told to wash our cash monies and dry them in the washer and dryer. We were all bracing for the zombie apocalypse. So these two families were potentially inviting real-life zombies into their home. So it's super gracious to have people opening up their homes to us.

And it turns out both families have a very similar setup for us to live with them in terms of bedrooms, bathrooms, and etc. The primary difference is one family has a cute 35lb dog and the other has a 120lb doberman. Now, dobermans are beautiful and magnificent creatures. One of their many strengths is hunting animals. And. One of their weaknesses is not eating tiny humans. So naturally. Callie and I leaned towards the family that does not have a toddler murdering dog. While we were talking to our LifeGroup and inviting them in to pray and give us their thoughts, the family with the doberman called me one day and said and I quote "We prayed about this, and I have never heard the Holy Spirit speak this clearly in my life: You do not own your house, it belongs to God. So, we think you guys should listen to God and come live with us."

My man played the God card. And Callie and I, not gonna lie, went against our own wisdom and trust in God and moved with them. And it was a sweet season for me to experience God does see me and my family and he will always provide for us. When you are in ministry, you get a lot of opportunities to provide for others, we had plenty of people that lived with us but there is this nagging feeling I have always struggled with, will God provide for us if we are in need, will we have a place to live if we find ourselves in a situation without a home. And in that season I got to witness it fully, all because a family in our church family understands that everything they have, it all belongs to God. And not only that, this family very much stepped into the role of grandparents for Luke because both of my parents have already passed away. All of this happened because they believed they are managers of their home and things, not owners.

5) Because we love God and we love people.

12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

In Mark 12:30 Jesus said you can summarize all that he is about with loving God and loving people. So why do Christians give? Because it's a way that we express love for God and love for people. God gets praise and glory and people get their needs met. And we love people and we want to see their needs met, simple as that.

Poor people are taken care of, hungry people are fed and sick people are given care. And the church has excelled at this historically. This is why many hospitals have

denominational names. Here in Knoxville we had the Baptist Hospital. Fort Sanders Regional Hospital's name used to be Fort Sanders Presbyterian Hospital. St Mary's Medical center. Churches funded the beginning of a hospital to care for the needs of people. I could give tons of examples. In the end, the church has done well at this. This is why our church partnered with 5 non-profits in our city. Each of those nonprofits serve to take care of the people in our city that are in need and marginalized and overlooked.

And not only that, this is constantly played out in our LifeGroups. Where there are people hungry, we feed them. Where they need coats, we provide for them. When our people are struggling financially or lose their jobs and can't pay their bills, we rally and find a way to pay for them. When people need counseling and can't pay for it, we pay for it. And when I say "we," I mean you help pay for all those things if you give to our church. We do whatever we need to do to take care of one another and those in our vicinity in need.

So what does it look like for each of us to live this out? How do we continue to be formed into a people that are beautifully generous and bring glory to God? I've got 3 specific applications for us: These will be quick.

We give to each other

Recall the context of our passage today is Paul writing to the Corinthian church, asking them to be generous to help with the famine that is happening in Jerusalem. We want to be able to give to one another when there is a need that rises up. And to do that well, we need to plan for it, we need to budget for generosity. If we wait until a need comes up without budgeting for it, chances are, we won't be able to help unless you are in a situation where you just have too much money laying around.

I was once talking to someone about this concept and they asked me, what if I saved up all this money for generosity and I don't have any opportunities to give it away? I told him, here's the secret, once you start budgeting for generosity, you will also start seeing opportunities for generosity. Budgeting for generosity shifts generosity from feeling like a burden to feeling like an opportunity, which makes us take notice of opportunities to do it more often. Because that's how the Spirit of God moves a lot of the times, we put our money towards his purposes, and he will start shaping our hearts to look for opportunities. And sure enough, that conversation was 5 years ago, this person never ran out of opportunities to be generous and the people around them are blessed because of it.

We give to the church

Second thing is the budget for tithing. I know that churches get a bad rap for talking about tithing, and that's why I saved it until near the end. But the reality is that **Jesus said his primary means for advancing his kingdom is his local church, then some of our money should be going back and supporting the ministry of the local church.** In Acts 4, it tells us that the early Christians took some of their money and laid it at the apostles' feet, so that the apostles could distribute it where they saw fit. I tithe, you tithe, we tithe, because we care about the mission that God is doing. Our goal as a

church is to serve you and help equip you to be great missionaries in our city—and the reality is that it takes some money to do that. So we ask that you give towards that mission. We work hard to get the most out of every dollar we spend. You're not ever gonna see us buy lasers for our worship Gatherings. You're not gonna see any of our staff getting rich. Rather, we're gonna spend our time and energy getting the most out of every dollar you guys give so that the mission can continue to move forward through City Church. And hopefully we made it as easy as possible for you to do this, there are offering baskets on your way out, or you can do it online from our website with just a few clicks.

Side note for my dear college students. If your income is \$0, 10% of \$0 is... \$0. Congrats, you're doing great in tithing.

We give to see justice done

As I mentioned throughout this sermon, God's people have been known throughout history as the ones seeing that justice is done, feeding the hungry, taking care of the poor, and caring for the sick. So for us to continue to be that type of people, we also need to give to things like that. You can give to see justice done on a personal level or you can budget and give to organizations that are spearheading in these areas. If you need help with which organizations to support, feel free to reach out to me or Eric, we can tell you about the 5 organizations our church is supporting.

I want to close with a quote from **Robert Murray M'Cheyne**, who was a Scottish minister who preached in Scotland over 150 years ago.

He preached a sermon on giving, and this sermon is just so powerful because he takes exactly what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, and says, "Do you know the grace of Christ? Oh my dear friends, if you would be like Christ, and you pray that you will be, become like him in giving. 'Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor.'

Objection: 'My money is my own.'

Answer: Christ might have said, 'My blood is my own; my life is my own,' and then where would you be?

Objection: 'But many people in need are undeserving.'

Answer: Christ might have looked at you and said, 'Look at these wicked rebels, should I lay down my life for these? No, I will give to the good angels and the deserving poor.' But no, he left the ninety-nine sheep, and came after the lost. He gave his blood to the undeserving.

Objection: 'But people who I give my money to might abuse it.'

Answer: Christ might have said the same thing, with far greater truth. Christ knew thousands would trample his blood under their feet, that most would despise it, that many would make his blood an excuse for sinning more; yet he gave his own blood.

My dear Christians if you want to be like Christ, give much, give often, give freely even to the vile and the undeserving. Christ is glorious and happy, and so shall you be. **It's not your money I want; it's your happiness.** Remember his own word, 'It's more blessed to give than to receive.'

It's better to give than to receive. Jesus was talking about the posture of our entire lives. And it is 100% true. In all of life, it is better to give than to receive.