



**Series:** True Riches

**Sermon:** Part 5: Generosity That Costs Us

**Date:** Sunday, February 9th, 2025

*God blessed them [Adam and Eve] and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Genesis 1:28)*

God blessed them with abundance so they could use their abundance to be a \_\_\_\_\_.

*The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. (Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB)*

How much we release back to God comes down to a \_\_\_\_\_ issue. It reveals to us who really has first place in our life - is it God or is it money?

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she [the widow], out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44)*

The sacrifice we make to give reveals the condition of our hearts, and it is this \_\_\_\_\_, not the amount, that moves God.

The proportion of our income that we give back to God is more important to Him than the amount we give.

God is moved based on the sacrifice that it takes for us to give that amount.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)*

*“You must decide in your heart how much to give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” (2 Corinthians 9:7 NLT)*

Until God has access to all our finances, He doesn’t have access to all of us.

After experiencing God’s love for us, we go from passive and spontaneous givers to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ givers.



People who are active and intentional givers always make a decision beforehand as to the percentage or proportion of income they are going to give away based on what they have been blessed with.

*Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)*

**Our Giving To God Is To Be:**

- 1. Periodic**
- 2. Planned**
- 3. Proportional**
- 4. Private**

A Tithe: Where God told His people, the Israelites, to give 10% of their first fruits from their harvest back to Him before using any of the harvest for personal consumption

*With God's help, may we strive to be generous with what we have because God was generous with all that He had as we experience true riches in Him now and for all eternity.*

**Bottom Line:** *God is not moved by the amount that we give, but He is moved by the proportion of what we give based on the income that we have. He is moved based on the sacrifice that it takes for us to give that amount.*

***Questions to reflect on this week or with others:***

- 1. When it comes to your giving to God, do you give in a way where it actually costs you?*
- 2. Why is it that it is only after we understand God's love for us that we can move from being passive and spontaneous givers to being active and intentional givers?*
- 3. What steps would you need to implement so that your giving to God is periodic, planned, proportional, and private?*
- 4. How does knowing that God owns all that we have change the way that we view and use the resources that we have?*

**Any prayer requests?**

-----Tear Here -----

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**