

# Marks of a Disciple / Lesson 4: “Generous Living”

## The Heart of Giving

- How would you describe the way our culture feels about money and possessions?

**Examine where your heart is. (Matthew 6:19-21)**

- Why did Jesus caution against building up treasures on earth?
- What does it look like to “store up” treasures in heaven?
- What makes treasures in heaven more valuable than treasures on earth? Why do we sometimes have a hard time seeing the difference?
- How does money keep us from being eternally minded?

**Choose to serve the right master. (Matthew 6:24)**

- What does it look like when someone is enslaved by their money?
- What are some ways we try to serve both God and money? What is the typical outcome when we do?
- Why might this mark of a disciple be harder for us to embrace than others?
- Based on what you’ve observed in most men, what are some changes they could make to help them not being mastered by possessions?

## Giving As A Discipline

**Excel in this act of grace: generosity. (2Corinthians 8:1-9)**

- What do the Macedonians teach us about the nature of generosity?
- What would you be looking for in a man who was said to “excel” in the grace of giving?

- How should the gospel compel your giving?

### **Practical ideas to pursue generosity. (1Timothy 6:1**

- Thinking beyond finances, what other resources do you have at your disposal? Where can you use those to serve God and others?
- Without naming him/her, think of the most generous Christian you know. What could your group learn about giving from observing his/her life?
- Why is the act of giving as beneficial for the giver as it is for the ministry it funds? How has it matured you to give?

### **Personal Evaluation**

- How generous are you with the resources God has entrusted to you? What do your finances reflect about your heart?
- Are there areas in your monthly expenses that you could cut back on or do away with entirely to be more generous?
- If you find it financially difficult to give, who could you consult about financial stewardship?