

**Sunday – June 1, 2025**

**New Series: “The Flourishing Life”**



***“Giving that Makes a Difference”***  
***Matthew 6:1-4***

“It is better to give than to receive.” We like the idea, especially when we are on the “receiving” end of the equation. The giving side sometimes stumps us. We feel that we have nothing to give, not enough to give, or have been asked to give too often so we balk at the idea. What is my attitude toward giving, and what has shaped it

**Key Verse.** *“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them” (Matthew 6:1).*

We are coming to a new section in “The Sermon on the Mount.” This chapter can best be summed up with the phrase, “God first.” Jesus will be challenging my actions and attitudes in how I live as a disciple.

Read *Matthew 6:1* and *Philippians 3:9*.

What is the difference between practicing righteousness and being righteous? Where do I lean in my life?

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Read *Matthew 6:2-4*. The first “act of righteousness” Jesus addresses is my giving. How would you summarize Jesus’ statement here about giving and my attitude?

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Read *Acts 4:32-35*. What was the early church’s attitude and practice towards giving? How does that compare to what I see today?

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Read *Deuteronomy 12:11-12*. How is the tithe described here?

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In the Old Testament there were three different tithes that were prescribed—the Levite, the festival and the poverty tithe. A tithe was defined as 10% of one’s wealth. If added up these amounted to about 23% of a person’s wealth. These did not include the freewill offerings and other sacrifices. How does this align with your understanding of what a tithe is?

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Read *Matthew 6:3-4*. How does Jesus explain what my attitude and actions towards giving should be?

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Read *2 Corinthians 8:1-5*. Here is an example Paul uses about giving. Summarize it in your own words.

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A New Testament summary of giving could be

- Giving is an act of God’s grace in my life to someone else
- Giving is an act of joy
- Giving is a generous overflow
- Giving is according to my means
- Giving is done freely
- Giving is an act of worship and service to God, and to others
- Giving advances God’s mission

Read *Mark 12:41-44* as a real life example.

**THIS WEEK:**

- Do I give as an act of worship and gratitude or drudgery and guilt?
- Can I thank God for the gifts he has given to me, so I can help others?
- What is God saying to me today?