

A Given Life Gives Everything

Week of April 15, 2018



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Acts 4:32-35

Growing up in the world, we are taught to always look out for number one. We're taught that if you want to get ahead in life, you have to work hard and take care of yourself first. Even from the day we are born, we are selfish beings consumed with a "me first" kind of attitude. Therefore, it's difficult for us to receive a message like the one in Mark chapter 8, verse 35: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." In order to save ourselves, we have to live a given life; a life that holds nothing back and gives all it's got to God. The given life encompasses every area of life—including our finances. We must live a life that puts Jesus first, for then we will receive what's worth more, leaving behind all that's worth less to die along with the world.

Pray

Lord, we recognize that it is not in our nature to live a life fully given to you. We recognize that our flesh fights back every time we give part of ourselves away, in particular when it comes to our finances. We ask that you would lead us to seek that which is worth more, and that we would not be tempted to chase all the worthless things that we cannot take with us when it's our time to leave this world. Give us the courage to live the given life, in all that we do, and thank you for your promise to reward our faith when we do!

Getting Started

- Have you ever had someone give you a genuine gift that was something you didn't really need?
- If God doesn't really need our money, then why does it matter how much we give?

Digging Deeper

1. Based on the First Covenant (Old Testament) way, which requires giving the first 10% of our income, or 'first fruits', how much are you currently giving (in a rough %)?
2. If you're not giving 10% right now, why is that? Or share why you do or don't give.
3. Read Malachi 3:7-10 and Acts 4:32-35. Discuss the difference between the First Covenant way of giving and the New Covenant way of giving. Which way makes more sense for a Jesus follower?
4. Why do you think that living a given life, especially when it comes to money, is so opposite of what our human nature wants us to do?
5. According to the New Covenant, which talks about giving generously above and beyond our first fruits, how generous are you with your money?
6. Have you had any recent opportunities to be generous that you missed out on? Share what happened.
7. If you are giving consistently and generously, do you have any cool stories or words of encouragement about how God has blessed you through your faith and worship with your finances?

Living Jesus

Jesus gave *everything* for us. If we truly appreciate that, we should then want to give back as much as we can to him. The only way to please God is to trust in him through faith, and faith requires living a given life. We easily confuse what's important, but Jesus lived a life that shows us a clear picture of where our priorities should lie. If we can shift our priorities to line up with Jesus, then the whole focus of our life will lead us towards a 'worth more' kind of living!

What's Your Story?

If you haven't yet committed to give faithfully, will you consider giving? If you're giving now, but know and feel that you can do more, will you? What is your plan for shifting your tithing priorities in the near future?

Share your personal story with us [here](#) or online. Go to MySevernRun.com and choose Share Your Story under Forms.