

Weathering the Storm: The Seduction of Stuff  
Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 22, 2015

[Matt 6:19-21, 24](#)

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22-23... 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Can we be a mature Christian and not be a generous giver?

Wrong Motives to Give:

1. As a Duty or Obligation
2. Out of Habit
3. Peer Pressure
4. Feeling of Guilt (or God's Judgment)

We give because...

1. **JESUS IS LORD AND THAT'S ONE WAY WE WORSHIP HIM**

[Matt 2:11](#)

On coming to the house, [the wise men] saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Can we be a mature Christian and not be a generous giver?

We give because...

2. **IT'S NOT OUR STUFF, IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD**

[James 1:17](#)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...

[Psalms 24:1](#)

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it..."

Can we be a mature Christian and not be a generous giver?

We give because...

3. **GOD WANTS OUR WHOLE HEART**

[Mark 12:42-44](#)

42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-- all she had to live on."

Can we be a mature Christian and not be a generous giver?

We give because...

4. **GOD IS A GIVER AND WE ARE CALLED TO BE LIKE HIM**

[John 3:16](#)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Can we be a mature Christian and not be a generous giver?

TITHE CHALLENGE:

[Malachi 3:10](#)

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Return 10% of your income right off the top to God through the end of May (2 months).