



# Sermon on the aMount

*"No one is to appear before me empty-handed." Exodus 23:15*

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Financial situation:	God's desire is to...	Examples:	Action Steps to Take:
<b>DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	...encourage you. ...stretch your meager resources. ...help you give first to Him so you can experience His help.	<b>Single Mother's Example</b> I Kings 17:7-16	1) Trust God and do not fear. 2) Make your first financial priority to give to God first (even before your family!) from your meager resources.
<b>SINGLE PERSON</b>	...lead you and meet your needs. ...help you honestly face your future and financial situation. ...help you overcome loneliness.	<b>Jacob's Promise</b> Genesis 28:16-22	1) Entrust your future and all of your needs to God. 2) Begin to give 10% of your income to God.
<b>IN DEBT OR BUSY TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET</b>	...stop your money from disappearing. ...help you make ends meet. ...help you make better financial decisions to get out of the financial rat race you're in.	<b>Haggai's Challenge</b> Haggai 1:2-11	1) Consider your ways. 2) Give to God as your first and foremost financial priority. Even ahead of family needs. 3) Serve the Lord and do not neglect the Lord's house.
<b>GIVING TO GOD FROM THE LEFTOVERS</b>	...bless you in ways you have not been experiencing. ...make you more productive. ...rebuke Satan from devouring your financial resources and possessions.	<b>Malachi's Test</b> Mal 1:13-14 and 3:7-11	1) Begin to be honest with God about your finances. 2) Quit stealing the tithe (10%) from God. Giving from the best you have -- a full 10% plus additional offerings.
<b>WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE GENEROUS</b>	...help you be more grateful. ...make your giving a delight -- not just a duty or drudgery. ...help you give far more money than you ever dreamed possible. ...provide for you.	<b>Paul's Plan</b> I Cor 16:2	1) Each Sunday, look back over the last seven days to "see" how the Lord provided (income, bargains, extra money, hospitality, help, etc.). 2) Give offerings of at least 10% for each provision.
<b>RECEIVED EXTRA OR UNEXPECTED MONEY</b>	...thank Him and give you a practical way to show others that God is your Provider.	<b>Abraham's Gift</b> Gen 14:17-24	1) Recognize that this gift came from God by giving at least 10% to the Lord's work.
<b>OWN A VALUABLE ITEM THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED</b>	...make you an encouragement, help, and example to others. ...help you de-accumulate so you can better serve God & others?	<b>Barnabas' Example</b> Acts 4:32-5:11	1) Share or give this item to someone you know who has a genuine need. 2) Sell the item and give some or all of the proceeds to the Lord.
<b>MORE MONEY &amp;/OR ASSETS THAN NEEDED</b>	...have others joyfully follow your generosity. ... allow you to help see special projects surge ahead.	<b>David's Challenge</b> I Chronicles 29:1-22	1) Help underwrite a special project. 2) Give your gift & challenge others to generously give.
<b>CHRISTIAN LEADER OR WORKER</b>	...energize you. ...prosper the ministry. ...cause others to joyfully follow your example.	<b>Nehemiah's Covenant</b> Neh 9:38; 10:31-39	1) Honor the Lord's Day. 2) Work on eliminating debt. 3) Support the Lord's work with your tithes & offerings.

Barna Research discovered that only 3% of Christians give 10% or more of their income to God's work!

A major reason for this is that most people honestly believe that their personal financial situation will not allow them to faithfully give 10% or more to the Lord.

Possibly more than ever before, Christian pastors and leaders need to call people back to Biblical faith and action in matters of personal finances and generosity.

People need help seeing beyond their financial circumstances to discover that the God of the Bible longs to be active and real in their lives today.

The chart on the left identifies a number of Biblical characters in various financial situations. May these role models be a source of encouragement for you and the people you are able to influence for the Lord.