

# GENEROUS GIVING

LENT | February 26, 2023

**Luke 9:23**—Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

**Luke 2:52**—Jesus grew in wisdom and strength and in favor with God and man.

**Romans 12:1-2**—Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Colossians 1:28**—...so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ..

**Colossians 2:5**—For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

## FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE FOR 40 DAYS OF LENT

**James 4:7-10**—Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

## JESUS' BEST PRACTICES ON GIVING

### 1. Personal.

**Matthew 6:1,4**—Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ...So that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

## 2. Planned.

**Matthew 6:2,3**—*So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...*

**1 Corinthians 16:2**—*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

## 3. Purposeful.

**Matthew 6:19,20**—*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

## 4. Principled.

**Matthew 6:21**—*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## 5. Priority.

**Matthew 6:24**—*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

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*All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.*

Rewatch today's message online at [bcachurch.com/messages](http://bcachurch.com/messages)

# LENT STUDY GUIDE: WEEK 2

Begin with prayer.

## TESTIMONY

Each week have someone share their testimony (their Jesus story). Only share what you feel comfortable sharing with the group. Schedule who will share next week.

## ENGAGE/EXCLUDE

Take a few minutes as a group to discuss the LENT challenge. How did the first few days go? Was it easier or harder than you thought to get started?

## READ TOGETHER

Matthew 6:1-4 & 6:19-34

## WORD FROM PASTOR ROB

Money is a troubling topic for many people. Folks get a bit protective and easily offended. But it doesn't need to be. If we are all in on our priority to Live-Love-Lead like Jesus, then following Christ's commands on money is a natural step along the journey. How can we destigmatize the subject of money? I think we do this by following the 5 BEST GIVING PRACTICES described by Jesus in Matthew 6. Take time to review this week's sermon and particularly focus on the 5 best practices. These points were obviously very important to Jesus, and should be to all of us, as well. God bless you and your group this week.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Review the study questions from last week and have group members share how they are leveraging Lent to lift their faith. Which of the spiritual disciplines of engagement and exclusion have resonated most with them and why? Ask if anyone has read any of the three books mentioned (especially *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster) and have them share takeaways from their readings.
2. Pastor Rob says that the greatest Lent sermon ever preached was by Jesus in Matthew 6. What are the 3 spiritual disciplines that Jesus expects every believer to practice? Read Matthew 6 as a group and have group members share points that stand out to them and why. Spend a good amount of time dissecting and discussing this rich passage. Focus mostly on the giving instructions at the beginning and after the prayer and fasting scriptures.
3. This week, we focused on Jesus' best practices on giving. Which of the 5 points shared in this week's message stands out most to you and why? Discuss all 5. Why were these so important to Jesus? Why should they be vital to us? Let everyone share their personal journey on growing in giving. What are the roadblocks, potholes, and obstacles to becoming a generous giver?

4. The spiritual disciplines of generosity, sacrifice, giving, and frugality war against greed, hoarding, and materialism. Spiritual disciplines bend our carnal nature to the nature of Christ. How does this happen? Why is this so important? What are the dangers of greed and materialism?
5. Money can be toxic or a tool. We are people with a purpose. We are here on earth to become like Jesus and live for Jesus. Giving to build His church, care for the poor, and spread the gospel around the world are a few ways God wants us to use riches for His glory. Take this broad topic and discuss the joys of “giving on purpose” considering your study of Matthew 6.

## MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

Matthew 6:9-21

## PRAYER

Take some time to check in on last week’s prayer requests and then share new prayer requests. Pray for each other.

## DAILY PRAYER FOCUS

Monday: For God to bless BCA.

Tuesday: Blessings and strength for our missionaries.

Wednesday: To demonstrate greater gratitude and peace.

Thursday: That the next generation will come to know Christ.

Friday: For God to bless and give wisdom to our pastors.

Saturday: For God to provide wisdom to all who need it.

Sunday: For our church to be filled with compassion and love.

## DAILY BIBLE READING

*For those participating in our Read the Bible in a Year weekly reading plan.*

Monday: Acts 25, Genesis 49, Psalm 41

Tuesday: Acts 26, Genesis 50, Psalm 42

Wednesday: Acts 27, Exodus 1, Psalm 43

Thursday: Acts 28, Exodus 2, Psalm 44

Friday: Hebrews 1, Exodus 3, Psalm 45