



This document contains a brief outline sketch of the 5.23.2010 sermon on Giving. The audio recording did not work that week, so this is the best we have.

This was Part 4 of the five part series on Commitment and we ask that everyone joining the 2 Pillars Church Launch Team have read over these notes.

1. Welcome and Introduction

- a. This is week 4 of 5 of the Commitment Phase.
- b. Launch Team Covenants are available at the back of the room.
- c. Gospel Community information is now up on project2pillars.com

2. Key Question Today: Are You Willing to Give of Your Creativity, Time, Spiritual Gifts, and Income in Order to Fulfill the Vision of 2 Pillars Church?

- a. We'll talk briefly on creativity, time, and spiritual gifts.
- b. This is not: "What the Church wants from me."
- c. Giving is both inward and outward with respect to the church.
 - i. God did not gift you in certain ways simply to build a sweet church.
 - ii. God loves the local church, he builds the local church, and primarily works through the local church.
 - iii. But he does all of that for His kingdom and his kingdom exists outside the four walls of this building.

3. Creativity.

- a. Inward component
 - i. We need your creativity.
 - ii. Specifics in here (this room): lighting, mural.
 - iii. I'm not creative.
 - iv. We also need creativity downstairs with the kids (aka Little Pillars).
- b. Outward component
 - i. Creativity is also needed on mission.
 - ii. We don't have programs or evangelism events which means you have to get creative on mission.
 - iii. We want to be ordinary people, doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality.
 - iv. It's not just giving of your creativity, it's thinking and living creatively.

4. Time

- a. Inward
 - i. Taking care of this place. In June we'll start having one GC a week show up at 8:30am to clean and prep the place for Sunday morning.



- ii. Little Pillars – we're not looking for volunteers, we're looking for a family. Everyone on the Launch Team will enter the rotation for Little Pillars (assuming you pass a background check).
- b. Outward
 - i. Gospel Community and living on mission takes time.
 - ii. It's not just one evening a week.
 - iii. Getting to know one another, pursuing one another, bearing one another's burdens takes time.
 - iv. Loving people, serving artists, knowing and loving your neighbors – all of that takes time.

5. Spiritual Gifts

- a. Everyone on the Launch Team will be asked to complete the Divine Design Assessment.
 - i. Myers-Briggs / Spiritual Gifts inventory on steroids.
 - ii. I promise it is helpful and not cheesy.
- b. Inward and Outward.
 - i. We want to see your gifts used to their max within 2 Pillars so long as they coincide with the mission and vision of 2 Pillars.
 - ii. We also want to fuel and guide how these might be used outside of these 4 walls.
 - iii. It's a fallacy to think that our gifts HAVE to be used inside the church building. That really is a faulty and narrow understanding of what it means to be the church.

6. Bridge to Money

- a. Talking about money in the church has somehow become awkward.
- b. It shouldn't be.
- c. Jesus talked more about money than heaven and hell combined.
- d. He said that we cannot love both God and money.

7. Jesus' Central Point

- a. Where your treasure is, that's where your heart is.
- b. Question: Where's your treasure? Where's your heart?
- c. Answer: Look at your bank statement. What do you spend effortlessly on?

8. It's Mine

- a. Most of us think: I worked hard, I got an education, I got myself where I am, I deserve all of this. My experience, my hard work got me where I am.
- b. This is where I was.
 - i. When I got involved in church, I began to give, but it was out of compulsion and so I saw it more as a duty.
 - ii. God doesn't want your duty. He wants your heart.



- c. We immediately ask the question: “How much of **my** money do **I** need to give to the church.”
 - i. Wrong question.
 - ii. It’s not yours.

9. James 1:16-17

- a. It’s all God’s.
- b. This is the antithesis of the American Dream.
- c. And we are stewards.

10. Stewards

- a. A steward is one who says it’s not mine, it’s his.
- b. Once you understand that it doesn’t belong to you, that it belongs to God, it changes the way you live.
- c. It should bring us to a point of thankfulness – for everything (from the cereal you ate this morning to the shoes on your feet).

11. Donors vs Stewards

- a. God isn’t looking for donors, but stewards.
- b. 2 Pillars Church is currently supported by stewards.
- c. Examples:
 - i. Our friends Derek and Kendal in St. Louis.
 - ii. Names of others supporting on a monthly basis from all over the country.
 - iii. Clay in Lincoln.
 - iv. Coram Deo, Summit, Core Community, Mars Hill.
- d. Question is not “How much of my money do I need to give to God?” but rather “How much of God’s money should I steward well?” Answer: All of it.

12. Tricky with Church Planting

- a. Tension between trusting God and paying the bills.
- b. Reaching lost people – new converts are not typically the strongest givers.
- c. This is why it is essential that our Launch Team (founders) have a solid biblical view of giving.

13. Four Key Principles for Giving from the New Testament:

- a. Give Regularly (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
 - i. Consistently, weekly.
 - ii. Done via the gray box at the back of the room.
 - iii. Launch Team will be asked (via the covenant) to state how much per month they will give.
 - 1. Needed for budget purposes.



2. Everyone I've talked with for the last two years, I've asked to write down a number. It would be a disservice to them to not ask the same commitment from the Launch Team.
- b. Give Proportionally (2 Cor. 8:3)
 - i. Give according to your means.
- c. Give Sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:3; 9:6)
 - i. 2% may be sacrificial, 10% may not be.
 - ii. Give something.
 - iii. We do not teach a 10% across the board tithe. That is not found in the NT. 10% is a great goal and the church runs well on 10%, but 10% may or may not be sacrificial for you. If you pull in \$100k per year, 10% is not sacrificial.
 - iv. Some of you are calculating – 200, 300, 600 dollars/month – yes. I know.
- d. Give Cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7)

14. More on 10%

- a. We are people who want answers. We want someone to draw the line and say 10% hard and fast.
- b. The danger with this is twofold:
 - i. We can't give 10% and so we are guilt-ridden even though we may be giving regularly, proportionally, sacrificially, and cheerfully.
 - ii. We give 10% and we pat ourselves on the back with pride even though we're not giving proportionally or sacrificially.

15. Statistics:

- a. Christians worldwide had personal income totaling more than \$16 trillion in 2007 but gave only 2 percent to Christian causes.
- b. Only one-third to one-half of U.S. church members financially support their churches at all.
- c. The average confirmed Christian church member gives an average of \$13.31 per week.

16.2 Extremes Why We Don't Give Biblically

- a. Covetousness and Control (building your security through saving and amassing)
- b. Both are greed; both doubt God's sovereignty.

17. Motive: Paul doesn't simply tighten the screws and tell them to shut up and give.

- a. 2 Cor. 8:8-9.
- b. He reminds us that we give because Christ gave. He who was rich became poor, to give his life for us – wretched, unbelieving sinners. We give because we've been given too.
- c. The fact that we are even in church talking about giving is a reminder that he has poured out his grace and mercy upon us.



- d. God doesn't need your money.
 - i. He can do it all.
 - ii. Why does he want to entrust it to us? Why does he want us to be stewards?
 - iii. B/c we experience more of him as we depend on him, as we participate with him.
 - iv. As we lay down our lives – not just in theory, not just philosophically – but physically, financially, where the rubber meets the road.

18. Ultimately: It's about lost people.

- a. Acts 29 and a church planting movement.
- b. Church planting as the most effective way to reach lost people.
- c. 10% of everything given to 2 Pillars Church goes directly back to church planting.
- d. We want to plant more churches.

19. Should You Give Everything that You Give to 2 Pillars Church?

- a. It's not biblical to say yes.
- b. However, this is your family. And your family has needs.
- c. Being a part of a church plant is different than being a part of an existing church. There aren't others to carry the load. You may have to give up some luxuries of supporting other things if you truly believe in 2 Pillars.
- d. Pray about it:

20. Some of you have radically changed your life to be a part of this thing.

- a. Some still don't have any skin in the game at all.
- b. Put some skin into the game.
- c. Jesus put all of his skin into it for you.
- d. Now he's called us to plant a church that takes the gospel to people who need to hear it.