



## Dollars and Sense: Part 3 “Putting God First in My Finances”

Matthew 23:23; Malachi 3:6-12  
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### Giving Facts:

- The average Christian in America gives or tithes between 2.5% and 3% of their income back to God through the local church. *Barna Research Group*
- Giving by Christians is comparatively lower at 2.5% than that given by Christians during the Great Depression. *Barna*
- 30% of people give 75-80% of a church’s overall budget. *InJoy Stewardship Solutions*
- Collectively Christians give \$181 billion each year. If every Christian were to tithe at least 10% that number would jump to \$647 billion. *Barna*
- 37% of those attending Evangelical churches do not give anything to their local church. *The Mitch Maloney Lecture*

### Giving is important because:

- I. **JESUS** commended **GIVING** in the life of a believer. (Matthew 23:23)

### Sermon Notes (continued)

2. Giving is a **TEST** of **TRUST**. (Malachi 3:6-12)

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...”  
*1 Corinthians 16:2*

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.  
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
*2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

### My Next Steps:

1. Today I/we are making the commitment to give at least 10 cents out of every dollar back to God through the local church.
2. This week I will continue to look for and take advantage of opportunities I have to be generous to those around me.
3. For the next 17 days I will pray for the financial health of FFC. Pray for our Finance Team, Ministry Leaders, and for all those who call FFC home to put God first in their finances.
4. Other: \_\_\_\_\_