

# GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

Part 8: Give Yourself Away  
To An Elephant?

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## White Elephant Financial Mistakes

- 1) Too much debt
- 2) Too much “what I don’t know can’t hurt me”
- 3) Not enough Word

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. – *Malachi 3:10*

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*

- 4) Not enough generosity
- 5) Not enough Jesus

## Jesus on Money

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

<sup>13</sup> “No servant 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.”

<sup>14</sup> The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight. – *Luke 16:10-15*

### Bottom Line:

Nothing competes with God like money.

(Continues on back)

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – *Matthew 6:19-21*

**Bottom Line:**

Stewardship is a matter of the heart.

<sup>15</sup>Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

– *Luke 12:15*

**Bottom Line:**

You are not what you own.

**Question:**

What if one of God’s gifts to you through stewardship is protection?

**Next Steps**

If you’d like to make big strides in building a personal budget, call Love Inc. (671-6201) this week and ask about their Budget Counseling “Boot Camp.”

Check out some of these online resources regarding stewardship:

**The Seven Baby Steps from Dave Ramsey**

[www.daveramsey.com/new/baby-steps](http://www.daveramsey.com/new/baby-steps)

**Focus on the Family** – 15-20 relevant articles on money and finances

[www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/money\\_and\\_finances.aspx](http://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/money_and_finances.aspx)

**On Your Way Home**

Think back over your day so far. Did greed sneak in anywhere? Where was your heart at that moment?

**Small Group Discussion Questions**



- 1) What is the most valuable possession you own? What makes it so valuable?
- 2) Do you own anything that has no earthly value but is very special to you? What makes it so precious to you?
- 3) Do you agree with Jesus’ statements about money? Are there any parts that confuse you? Share them with a group and see if you can find an answer.
- 4) What do you think constitutes “treasure in heaven?”
- 5) If someone wanted to just get started practicing biblical stewardship, what would you recommend as their first step?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?