



A Heart-Shaping Investment

Matt Garvin ~ March 19, 2017

Our sense is that Jesus wants to use The Seed Project to teach us to put Him first in every area of our lives, and particularly in the area of finances.

If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.

Rev. Billy Graham

- The average annual household income in St. Albert in 2010 was just over \$136,000; the third highest for a municipality in Alberta
- The average annual Mexican household income is \$19,389
- The median annual household income worldwide is \$9,733
- The average salary in Cuba in 2015 was \$300 US per year

Most of us have some limitations in our beliefs about our own finances.

How we view _____ is one of the biggest questions that will impact our ability to be followers of Jesus in Alberta.

The person who thinks the money he makes is meant mainly to increase his comforts on earth is a fool, Jesus says. Wise people know that all their money belongs to God and should be used to show that God, and not money, is their treasure, their comfort, their joy, and their security.

John Piper

In 2 Corinthians, The Apostle Paul was writing to a city a lot like St. Albert, after spending time with people like Cubans or Mexicans, knowing that people in Jerusalem are facing a crisis.

Generosity is about grace, community and ministry much more than money...

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NIV

All giving is firstly to God.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV

Giving is what it means to follow the example of Jesus.

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 NIV

The core question of money is about your _____ to give, not what you give...

And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:10-12 NIV

Giving is about realizing our place of _____ in the body of Christ.

Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

2 Corinthians 8:13-15 NIV

Integrity is essential... Those who are handling money specifically given to God must do what is right not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

2 Corinthians 8:19-21 NIV

We are not only accountable to God, but also accountable to those brothers and sisters who give everything and have less...

But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.

2 Corinthians 9:3-4 NIV

**The Principle of Giving:
Sowing finances results in _____ and _____.**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”*

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 NIV

We believe that Jesus is calling us collectively at St. Albert Alliance Church and each of us as individuals, to a particular role of generosity in His Kingdom.

A Heart-Shaping Investment Small Group Questions

1. What did you find most helpful about Pastor Matt’s sermon?
2. Have someone read page 3 of The Seed Project Commitment Guide. How do you find yourself responding to what Pastor Jeremy is saying?
3. Turn to Page 12 of The Seed Project Commitment Guide and work through the Bible verses and questions together as a group.
4. At the end of his sermon, Pastor Matt said that “we believe that Jesus is calling us collectively at St. Albert Alliance Church and each of us as individuals, to a particular role of generosity in His Kingdom.” How do you respond to that? Do you have a sense of what that means for you personally?