



I Am Christ Church: Part 4 - Give

March 10, 2024

"I Am Christ Church" - The mission. What we believe. **How we live.**
Christ makes a Christian. **Disciplines** make the **disciple.**

The Wheel:

1. Never ends. Never outgrow.
2. Start anywhere. Finish everywhere.
3. Simple definition and complex definition.



We Give

Jewish Background

- Creation: Giver of Life, Broken Relationship, Golden Calf
- Tithing 10%, Defensive, Nervous, "Our Golden Calf"
- Jesus and God's Generous Trustworthy Character

Jesus

- Store up your treasures in heaven...
- Wherever your treasure is...
- The kingdom of God is like...
- Give to Caesar...
- Lilies...

Matthew 19:16-26

¹⁶ Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

¹⁷ "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ “Which ones?” the man asked.

And Jesus replied: “ ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁰ “I’ve obeyed all these commandments,” the young man replied. “What else must I do?”

²¹ Jesus told him, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁴ I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

²⁵ The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

²⁶ Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Reasons. Organizations.

We Give.

REFLECTIONS

1. Why do people get defensive or nervous when money is talked about? What has been the rocky relationship between money and the church in your perspective?
2. What is a potential “golden calf” in your life and in others?
3. Look up and read a few of Jesus’s teachings. Which is your favorite and why?
4. Read Matthew 19:16-26. What is encouraging? What is challenging?
5. What are your reasons for giving? What organizations do you give to?
6. How does giving cultivate faith in you? How does giving make you more Christ-like? Does anything stand in the way of giving more?
7. How is giving money different from giving time or service?