

# Sermon Outline

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE | Geoffrey Lin

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (p.1642), 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (p.1650)

### Talk 1: A God who is rich in mercy

1. God made us to enjoy everything which belongs to Him (even though He didn't need to)
2. God saved us from our sins (even though we were deserving of His wrath)
3. In Christ, God shows us the meaning of "sacrifice for the sake of others"
4. generosity ≠ giving to God = giving BACK to God what comes from His hand (1 Chr 29)

### Talk 2: What should we do with all our stuff? Two intriguing parables from Jesus:

1. The rich fool: "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions"
2. The shrewd manager: "use worldly wealth so you'll be welcomed into eternal dwellings"

### Talk 3: Calling all gospel patrons

"Command those who are rich in this present world to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" (1 Tim 6:18)

2 Cor 8:1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, **their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity**. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 **they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege** of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

1 Cor 16:1 Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 **On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income**, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

### FAQ #1: How much should I give?

- at Trinity Church Adelaide, we will NEVER tell how much you should give ...

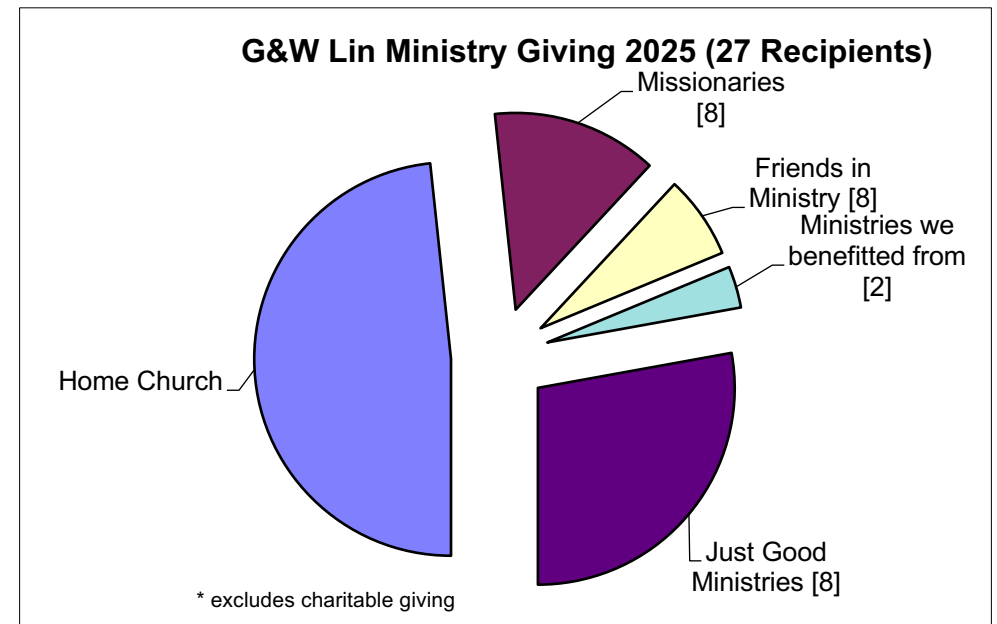
Mt 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

- "Mimic the Macedonians"

2 Cor 9:7 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.

- "how much should I give?" vs "how little do I need to keep for myself?"

### FAQ #2: To whom should I give?



- legalism vs judgmentalism

Mt 6:3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- the need to be accountable vs the opportunity to encourage each other
- at Trinity Church Adelaide, no-one will see your giving (except Finance Manager)

- aim to give more each year

### FAQ #3: How should I give?

- deliberate/planned/intentional
- regular
- thoughtful

### Imagine if ...

2 Cor 9:12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also **overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God**. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!