

# SERMON OUTLINE

19th February 2012

Theme: ***Commitment Month: Commitment to Giving***

Readings: ***Malachi 3: 6 - 12; 2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 7; Mark 12: 41 - 44***

The subject of giving, especially the giving of money, can be a very sensitive one. It is not a particularly popular sermon topic for some preachers and church members. And yet it is an important subject as it has implications for our discipleship. While Christian giving involves far more than the giving of money, often we find that it is the giving of our money that causes us the greatest struggle. But as we read the Bible we cannot ignore the emphasis there is on this particular aspect of giving. God requires it. Jesus taught about it. Paul encourages it. So it is a subject we cannot avoid.

From our readings I would like to offer 3 adjectives that should describe Christian giving. As we reflect on them we might like to consider if that is true of our giving as well.

1. **Faithful (giving)** - "bring all the tithes ... so there will be enough food in the Temple" (Malachi 3: 10)

2. **Generous (giving)** - "...they gave not only what they could afford but far more" (2 Corinthians 8: 3)

3. **Sacrificial (giving)** - "... she has given everything she had to live on" (Mark 12: 44)

**For Reflection**

Am I being faithful, generous and sacrificial in my giving to God?  
discipleship that I struggle with? If so, why?

Is this an area of my