

Sermon Notes – “Bigger Is Always Better”

(March 26, 2023)

Sermon Texts: Exodus 35, Romans 8:28-32, Luke 12:13-21

Memory Verse – II Corinthians 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.”

Introduction: Today and next Sunday we look at Chapter 10 in the *Growing In Christ* book. Chapter 10 discusses the topic of **“Giving.”** The Disciple of Jesus *practices good stewardship* of the gifts God has given. What exactly does that mean?

Focus Question: *Do I use the gifts God gives me wisely?*

I. The Source of All Good Things

- We did not create ourselves or the our world around us. (Isaiah 40:28, Psalm 104)
- All that is, all that we are, & all that we have comes from God. (Psalm 104:27-28)
- This is the **continuous refrain** of the Bible from cover to cover.

II. Blessing Upon Blessing

- We don’t own anything ... everything we have is **on loan** from God.
- The critical question: *How should I use the gifts God has loaned me?*
- Or to put it another way: *Why did God give me these gifts in the first place?*

III. Be Careful When Building Bigger Barns

- Jesus warns us: *Be on guard against all kinds of greed.* (Luke 12:15)
- Human temptation: *to hoard the gifts God gives.* (Love of self using God’s stuff)
- God’s desire: *that we be generous.* (Love your neighbor with God’s stuff)

Gospel Imperative – Don’t *“Love stuff and use people.”* Instead, *“Love people and use stuff.”*