

# ONE MORE DOLLAR

# LOVE GIVE GROW



Matthew 5:40 - "... give your cloak as well;"

## Big Idea:

*What's the next step of giving in your life?*

### 1. The Rule way

- *minimalistic*
- *end-point*
- *moralistic*
- *self-satisfied*

vs.

### The Gospel Way

- *open ended*
- *starting point*
- *grace-filled*

### 2. Taking the next steps

- Tithe (Mal 3:8-10)*
- Alms (Acts 10:4)*
- Offerings (Exodus 35:5)*

### 3. The Tithing Step

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## Big Idea: *What's the next step of giving in your life?*

### Questions for "One More Dollar"

1. What are some 'rules' that you had in your home when you were growing up?
  - a. Why do you think people confuse Tithes, Alms, & Offerings as being the same thing?
  - b. What kind of planning would be required for a family to start giving a full tithe and alms and offerings? Do you have a financial plan that includes regular giving? (giving with PAD is one way to help you have consistency).
  - c. What impact does debt have on our ability to give generously? Do you have a plan to reduce personal debt so you can become more generous?
  - d. What do you think would happen if all God's people were obedient in giving a tithe to the local church?
2. When you think of 'rules' do you think they encourage people to go above and beyond or to "tow the line"?
3. How can faith with rules turn to simple moralism? (*Oxford English Dictionary defines 'moralism' as "religion consisting of or reduced to merely moral practice"*).
4. Do you think rules contribute to people feeling satisfied they have done enough? How is this different from a 'gospel' perspective?
5. When 'rules' are understood as the basic minimum, how does this change the way we live? (e.g., *the clear rule "do not murder" compared to the more abstract principle of "love your neighbour"*.)

2. In the Gospels, the only thing Jesus talked about more than money was the Kingdom of God.
  - a. Based on Jesus' emphasis, what can we do to have a more biblical understanding of money?
  - b. What can we do to be less defensive (or offended) when discussing money?

### Questions for Love, Give, Grow

1. A tithe is 10% of a person's income. In Old Testament times people gave a tithe plus alms and various offerings. At The Journey Church, the **Tithe** would be what we give to the General Fund (*to God's Church*), **Alms** would be for Community Care (*to help those in need*), and **Offerings** would be for one of our several other funds (*mission, building, special*).
3. Paul writes: "God loves a cheerful giver." What are some marks of a cheerful giver? What one thing can you do this week to become more cheerful in giving? If you acted on this question last week, how did it go? Share with your group.