

October 15, 2017
“Giving Back To Caesar”
(Matthew 22:15-22)

The Pharisees were concerned about Jesus’ growing _____.

Jesus, a man of _____ - a man who teaches the truth regardless of what others might _____.

Why do we give to God?

#1. – One reason is out of _____ for all God has done for us.

Most of us have been _____ in wonderful ways. And we want to say _____ and to tell God we love Him.

When we share with God, our _____ are a way of saying, “*God, I’m returning to you a portion of what I have...to say thank you and I love you.*”

#2. – It’s because we recognize that _____ we have belongs to _____ in the first place.

Psalm 24:1 – “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...*”

Everything in this world belongs to God! We are only _____ (managers) of God’s wealth.

The word “*Steward*” actually comes from a Greek word that refers to someone who _____ a household.

#3. – God takes that which we give Him and _____ it to do far more than we can even _____.

(over)

Like the boy who gave Jesus the fishes and loaves to feed thousands of people, that is what always happens when people offer up _____ to the Master.

Matthew 25:40 – “**Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...**”

Whenever you give to the _____, and its various ministries, you are showing your _____ for God.

So, why do we give back to God?

We do it out of _____ for all God’s done for us and because we _____ Him.

We give because everything already belongs to Him and we are but stewards (_____) of His bounty.

And we do it because we know that God will take what we give to Him and will _____ it and cause it to go _____ than we can possibly imagine.

Give unto Caesar? We don’t have much choice.

Give unto God? That is a wonderful _____!

“I think it can be safely said that we never reflect the character of God more than when we give!” – **Pastor Joel Atwell**

“We can give without loving – for recognition, manipulation, leverage, etc. – but it’s impossible to love without giving. In one way or another, love always compels us to give.” – **Pastor Joel Atwell**