



In Matthew 6, Jesus calls us to a way of living that resists the temptation of “showy religion.” He cautions against practicing faith merely to be seen, warning that such attention-seeking empties the act of its power. Instead, he points us toward the “secret place,” the quiet intimacy where trust in God shapes our hearts and where generosity takes root.

This invitation is not a rejection of religious practice but a reorientation of it. Jesus expects his followers to give, pray, and fast: not if, but when. These are regular, disciplined acts of faith. What matters is the intent: whether these practices reflect genuine trust in God or simply seek human approval.

Like the Puerto Rican yagrumo leaf that turns toward the heavens before the rain, our generosity turns us toward the Source of all life. The tree’s silver side catches the light, not to boast of its brilliance, but to signal expectancy: a quiet trust that nourishment is coming.

In the same way, **our hidden acts of generosity and prayer reflect God’s light, not our own.**

Jesus' words also challenge our understanding of value and reward. We often want recognition, but Jesus urges us to trust God with the timing of the reveal — or whether it is revealed at all. In God's economy, the real reward of generosity is transformation, not applause. "Where your treasure is," Jesus says, "there your heart will be also."

Our giving, praying, and fasting are ways of training our hearts to desire what God desires. Generosity, then, becomes both inward and outward, rooted in the secret life with God, yet shining in compassion and justice. It is the overflow of love, not the performance of piety.

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even **1% more of our annual income** would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God's world. **Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!**