



## Week 2: Send Me Away

Are you mastering your money or being mastered by it? Maybe it's time to flip the script. Instead of striving to have enough money to satisfy a me-first appetite, Jesus encouraged his listeners to have an others-first approach.

### Discussion Questions

1. What would you do if you received an extra paycheck this month?
2. Who do you know that seems to have an others-first mentality with their money? What makes you think that about them?
3. In his letter to the Christians in the region of Galatia, Paul gives a number of instructions on how to find freedom in life by following Christ. A key one is to “walk by the Spirit,” where we are nudged by God through our consciences. Given that context, read **Galatians 5:16–17**.
  - When it comes to money, how is what the flesh desires in contrast to what walking by the Spirit looks like?
  - At the end of verse 17, Paul likens “acts of the flesh” to doing “whatever you want.” What are some consequences of doing “whatever we want” with our money?
4. **Read Galatians 5:22–23**.
  - How can our money be used to demonstrate the fruit of the spirit?
  - What do the acts of the Spirit listed have in common?
5. **Read Matthew 6:24**. As a way to consider the principle Matthew introduces, look at the charts below. If a “1” is being mastered by your money and a “10” is mastering your money, how would you rate yourself? Why?

| Mastered by Money |
|-------------------|
| 1. Live           |
| 2. Save           |
| 3. Give           |

| Mastering your Money |
|----------------------|
| 1. Give              |
| 2. Save              |
| 3. Live              |

6. Give some words that describe what you want your relationship with God to look like. How can putting God and others first in the area of your money help you take a step toward that kind of relationship?
7. **Here's a challenge:** For the next two months, choose a percentage of your income and give it away as soon as you get paid.
  - How does that challenge make you feel?
  - Do any tensions come up when you consider taking this challenge? What are they?
  - What organization would you be excited to give to? Why?

### Moving Forward

Just like an appetite that will not be permanently satisfied, having a me-first mentality about money will always be a temptation. But when we have an others-first approach with our money, we practice self-control and self-denial. When we do that, we can find ourselves living in sync with our heavenly Father, who wants us to not be mastered by our money. So do you have money, or does money have you?