



# TABOO TWO:

## The Elephant Strikes Back





# What Elephant?

- Topics we don't talk about
- No need for child care
- Disagreement is OK
- Come talk with me





# Giving

- Why should I give?
- How should I give?
- What should I give?
- When should I give?
- To whom should I give?





**Disclaimer**

**I do not know what you give!**



# Explicit vs Implied

- Explicit – A statement made clearly with no need for deduction.





# Exodus 20:15

You shall not steal.





# Explicit vs Implied

- Explicit – A truth stated clearly with no need for deduction.
- Implied – A truth that can be accurately deduced from the whole of scripture taken in context.





## Deuteronomy 6:4, John 14:16-17

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.





# Explicit vs Implied

- Explicit – A truth stated clearly with no need for deduction.
- Implied – A truth that can be accurately deduced from the whole of scripture taken in context.
- Whether a truth is explicit in the Scriptures or implied by the Scriptures, **either way it's just as true.**





# Why should I give?

- The Old Testament example





## Hebrews 8:6

But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as **the covenant he mediates is better**, since it is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.





# Why should I give?

- The Old Testament example
- Logistical necessity





## Galatians 6:6

Let the one who is taught the word **share all good things**  
with the one who teaches.





# Why should I give?

- The Old Testament example
- Logistical necessity
- Because it pleases God





## 2 Corinthians 9:7

God loves a cheerful giver.





# How should I give?

- Freely





## 2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.





# How should I give?

- Freely
- Quietly





## Matthew 6:2-4

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing**, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.





# How should I give?

- Freely
- Quietly
- Generously





## Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is **generous to the poor** lends to the Lord, and  
he will repay him for his deed.





# How should I give?

- Freely
- Quietly
- Generously
- Sacrificially





## Mark 12:41-44

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. 43 And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. 44 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in **everything she had, all she had to live on.**"





# What should I give?

- Time





# Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to **do good** and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.





# What should I give?

- Time
- Effort





## Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, **work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men**, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.





# What should I give?

- Time
- Effort
- Money





## Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, **without neglecting the others.**”





# When should I give?

- Before I budget





# Proverbs 3:9

Honor the Lord with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;





# When should I give?

- Before I budget
- In lean times





## 2 Corinthians 8:2-4

for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and **their extreme poverty** have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints





# When should I give?

- Before I budget
- In lean times
- Regularly





## 1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.





# To whom should I give?

- To those in need





## James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this:  
to visit **orphans and widows** in their affliction, and to keep  
oneself unstained from the world.





# To whom should I give?

- To those in need
- To those who serve





# 1 Corinthians 9:9-11

For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? 10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. 11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?





# To whom should I give?

- To those in need
- To those who serve
- Your local church





## Acts 4:32-35

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.





# SO WHAT?

- Your first priority in giving should be to your local church
- Our attitude in giving matters more than our gift
- Ask yourself this week “What does my giving say about my beliefs”
- Make the necessary adjustments



# TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,  
**[www.westmiddlebury.org](http://www.westmiddlebury.org)**, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are  
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

