

**Heart-level Giving***Exodus 25 & 35, 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**Introduction:** This was the last of three messages on money and giving. In the first, Brian taught on sacrificial giving as we looked at the Macedonian churches giving out of their poverty. Last week Steve considered how to be rich toward God in this life by taking us through a parable about a rich man who built bigger barns for his riches. This last message considered Scriptures in the book of Exodus that illustrate how God is looking for willing, joyful, and voluntary givers to participate with Him in Making Room here at Faith.

**Opening Question:** Steve mentions some perceptions and stereotypes concerning churches and pastors. Have these caused you any worry as we look at a building expansion?

**Read 2 Cor. 9:7, Exodus 25:1-8, Exodus 35: 1-21**

Steve said:

Buildings are generally seen as a “necessary evil.” I’ve come to see buildings a bit differently now: while a building certainly doesn’t determine whether or not a church follows God well, a building can either hinder or help a church live out what God has called it to do.

1. From what you know of the Making Room plans, what about them will help us at Faith live out what God has for us to do?
2. Look at Exodus 25, especially verses 1-8. How do you answer the question of “How nice do we build it?” when it comes to places of worship?
3. Read Exodus 35:5-6. What do these verses speak to you? How do they make you feel?
4. Consider Exodus 35: 10, 30-34. What skills have you been able to use in service here at Faith? What skills would you like to use in the future?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. What things motivate you to give cheerfully towards a project/ministry?
6. In your opinion, what steps should people take as they approach the area of discretionary giving? [church projects, par church ministries, missions, other mailings]

Steve said:

Someone shared with me last week something that really puts in context everything we've said about giving over the past three weeks: Our value isn't in what we can give; it's in the scars of Christ. Giving is important in our discipleship, but our worth comes from Jesus' death and resurrection.

7. Despite agreeing with the above truth, where else do you find yourself getting your sense of value and worth from?