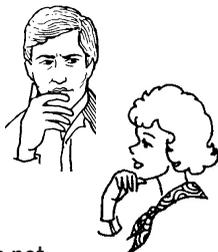


# How is God calling you to respond?



We are called to be disciples. A disciple's primary relationship is not with the congregation but with Jesus. The congregation is the means through which we grow in faith and proclaim the good news.

Giving is important. How we steward the finances that God has entrusted to us will have a huge impact on our discipleship.

The questions you ask yourself shape the way you think about money and possessions.

Let's imagine two people sitting in church on Sunday morning. A commitment card regarding their financial support of the congregation is in each of their hands.

Sue is sitting there thinking, "How much of my money does the church need this year? How do I feel about how things are going at church these days? Times are tight, so can I really spare any more?"

Next to Sue, Joe is thinking, "God has blessed me in so many ways. How do I feel God is calling me to respond to those blessings?"

Sue's focus is on the need of the church to receive. Joe's focus is on the need of the giver to give. Sue is giving as a member, thinking first about the need of the institution. Joe is giving as a disciple, thinking first about God's presence in his life and God's call to him.

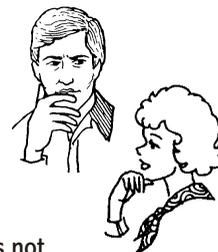
What questions are you asking as you think about what you will give? How will you grow in your relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talent and money God has entrusted to you? "How is God calling you to respond?"

*Gleaned from Ask, Thank, Tell by Charles Lane, Augsburg, 2006*

For more on Stewardship call your Synod Office



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