1. The Secret Service message was based on “Take care not to practice your righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven,” but it also governs “Secret Giving”, and todays message, “To Tithe or Not to Tithe, is NOT the question.” (Matthew 6:2-4, and 2 Corinthians 8-9). If someone were to ask you, “what is the central message of Jesus, and how does Matthew 6:1 relate to that?”

1. How does the idea of Earthly Watchers vs The Heavenly Watcher go to the heart of the Christian life?
2. “There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do, according to Hebrews 4:13. Did you initially think of this in a negative way? Why? Why Not?
3. NO TRUMPETS! How is it not only possible but actually expected by Jesus? There is something in the coming of Jesus that magnifies this. He came as God in the flesh, but did His creation receive Him with Trumpets? In what way is this the hallmark of kingdom citizens?
4. Is there a difference between secrecy and the kind of secret living, giving, praying and fasting according to Jesus? See Matthew 5:14-16.
5. I quote, “They were not giving but buying. They wanted the praise of men, so they paid to get it.” How is that a good summary of the pharisaical heart?
6. Thankfully “there is now no condemnation for those in Christ,” (Romans 8:1) How can the heart be cured of pharisaical hypocrisy according to the gospel?
7. Turning to 2 Corinthians 8-9, can you see Matthew 6:2-6 being living out? In general, how can you see this?
8. The two poles on this issue say that tithing is either an essential ingredient of the Christian life, or, on the other, we are no longer under the Law to tithe? How would you answer either side? [[1]](#endnote-1)
9. Did it surprise you to learn of the many tithes and offerings in the OT? What did I say was the percentage of giving overall there?
10. Look up (1) The Levitical Tithe: Numbers 18:21 (2) The Festival Tithe: Deuteronomy 14:22-27, and (3) The Charity Tithe: Deuteronomy 14:28-29. Do you see some principles that practically govern the life of the church from these three offerings alone?
11. When we get to the NT, is there ***now*** a difference between tithes and offerings?
12. Is there a difference between giving and “kingdom giving”?
13. The answer to all the questions is rooted in **GRACE**: 2 Cor 8:1-2 **LOVE**: 2 Cor 8:8 **RELATIONSHIP**: 2 Cor 8:3-5, 2 Cor 8:8-9. Isn’t it easy to see where true giving really comes from?
14. Kingdom Giving is motivated by Thanksgiving to God: 2 Cor 9:12-13, The Spirit Grows Us (spiritual growth): 2 Cor 9:6-9, God’s Praise: Mark 12:41-44, and God’s Reward: Matthew 6:19-21. The basic principles from these govern the practicalities: it is income based (1 Corinthians 16:2), and needs to be seen and met (2 Corinthians 8-9, 1 Corinthians 9:1-9). How has this affected your thinking about giving?
15. My first summary based on 2 Corinthians 8:2-3 intimates that Kingdom Giving is smart, thoughtful, considerate, passionate, deliberate, and completely level headed! Do you agree?
16. But lastly, Paul captures the essence of “Giving from the Heart Set Free” when he says that “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor 9:6-7. Would it be accurate to suggest that Kingdom Giving ultimately stems from seeing God as supremely worthy of an obedient heart that gives? In other words, as living out of worship? How?

1. I base most of my study on the book “Tithing After the Cross” by David A Couteau. It is certain the best I’ve read on this subject. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)