

# COUNTER ↑ CULTURE ↓

FOLLOWING JESUS IN A CANCEL CULTURE

First Things First  
WEEK TWO

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Jesus and scripture direct Christ-followers to live counter to culture, not conform to it.**

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

**When Jesus and scripture transform our thinking, we conform to be more like Jesus and less like the world around us.**

**Culture is competing for our time and money.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**To follow Jesus, we make Jesus the first priority with our time and money.**

**Scripture shows us that God cares for us, and God calls His people to put Him first with their time and money.**

*<sup>12</sup>“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup>but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. <sup>15</sup>Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.*

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (NIV)

**Israel honored God by honoring the Sabbath; a day devoted to God, recognizing that God is their deliverer and provider.**

*<sup>18</sup>Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup>and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. <sup>20</sup>And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

Genesis 14:18-20 (NIV)

*<sup>15</sup>...“No one is to appear before me empty-handed. <sup>16</sup>Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field.*

Exodus 23:15-16 (NIV)

*“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”*

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

**Giving the first ten percent is an act of obedience to God, a recognition that all belongs to Him, and an act of trust that God will provide.**

**Jesus upheld the sabbath as a day devoted to God, and the disciples continued to do the same.**

*He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.*

Luke 4:16 (NIV)

**The disciples continued to meet together regularly on the first day of the week.**

Acts 13:14, 42, 44; 20:7

**We give the first day of our week to gather with Jesus' family because loving one another is how we love God.**

COUNTER CULTURE | WEEK TWO | FIRST THINGS FIRST

# COUNTER CULTURE

FOLLOWING JESUS IN A CANCEL CULTURE

First Things First  
WEEK TWO

## Jesus directs His followers to put God first in their finances.

Luke 11:42; Matthew 6:21-33

## Where your money goes, your devotion follows.

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

## The first century church set aside the first of their income for the local church to expand the kingdom of God.

- Will I commit to loving God by regularly gathering with my local church so we can love one another?
- Will I commit to giving the first of my income to my local church?  
If so, what percentage is God leading me to give?



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### TEACHING SUMMARY:

Obedience is defined as "compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority."

Sacrifice is defined as "an act of giving us something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy."

As Christ-followers we are called to obedient sacrifice in regards to both our time and money.

We are called to commit our time to the service of Christ and the first fruits of our money to the local church for the furthering of its mission.

Many of us can struggle with that but when we look through the filter of Jesus we see that our sacrifice is in following His example. Jesus obediently sacrificed His life in order that we could be in community with the Father for eternity. Our obedient sacrifice in both time and money is a direct response to Jesus.

Will you obediently sacrifice out of the overflow of love poured upon you by Jesus? Will you deny yourself and live selflessly?

### TALK IT OVER:

When you think of tithing and using your time for God what comes to mind? How does it make you feel?

Do you believe that it is important to obediently sacrifice both your time and money for Christ? Why or why not?

If you struggle in those areas what is keeping you from being obedient?

What is one next step you can take today?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon: 1 Peter 1:13-16  
Tue: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18  
Wed: Malachi 3:8-10  
Thu: John 20:1,19  
Fri: John 13:35  
Sat: Luke 6:38