

Charles Feeney: An Example of Biblical Giving and Living

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ABSTRACT: This article explores Charles “Chuck” Feeney’s life, a self-made billionaire who co-founded the Duty Free Shoppers Group and gave away almost his entire fortune. Unlike many entrepreneurs, Feeney’s life embodies Christian principles. The article emphasizes three attributes reflecting Jesus’ teachings: giving away wealth, giving in secret, and living modestly. It aims to highlight Feeney’s legacy and suggests ways to incorporate his story into educational settings through readings, films, and discussions.

KEYWORDS: biblical giving, biblical living, wealth

INTRODUCTION

Success in business does not inherently equate to living a life that reflects Christian values and principles. Unfortunately, numerous businesspeople have gone astray, engaging in unethical or illegal activities. Notable examples include Jeffrey Epstein (financier), Bernie Madoff (financier), Jeffrey Skilling (Enron), Elizabeth Holmes (Theranos), and Sam Bankman-Fried (FTX), all of whom have been convicted or accused of illegal wrongdoing. While criminal activity is blatantly wrong, even those who succeed within the confines of the law may not necessarily reflect the teachings of Jesus in their lifestyles.

Consider Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk. Bezos, best known for founding Amazon, also owns the *Washington Post*. Musk, an investor and business leader, heads multiple companies, including Tesla, SpaceX, and X (formerly Twitter). Both Bezos and Musk are globally recognized as exceptionally successful entrepreneurs. However, their lifestyles and how they spend their fortunes may not align with biblical ideals. Both men are known for their lavish spending, and their personal lives have drawn scrutiny. Bezos owns multiple homes, a private jet, and the largest sailing yacht in the world. Musk has been married three times and reportedly has fourteen children with multiple partners. Although both Bezos and Musk donate significant amounts to various causes, these donations represent only a small fraction of their overall wealth.

It is refreshing when a businessperson emerges who defies negative stereotypes and instead lives a life guided by biblical principles. Charles “Chuck” Feeney is one such individual—a rare businessperson whose life embodies the teachings of Jesus. Feeney, a self-made entrepreneur, amassed a multi-billion-dollar fortune as a co-founder of the Duty Free Shoppers Group. Unlike some wealthy individuals, Feeney consciously decided to live an unassuming life. He preferred living discreetly and remained relatively unknown, eschewing the spotlight that many businesspeople crave. Instead of spending his fortune on a luxurious lifestyle, Feeney lived simply and gave away almost all his money without seeking recognition.

Feeney’s decision to live a low-profile life and give abundantly in secret aligns with biblical teachings, yet it has also resulted in his story being relatively unknown. His life of modesty and generosity, while biblical, has not garnered the attention it merits, leaving many unaware of his inspiring example. This article aims to bring Feeney’s story to light, hoping to inspire and edify those who learn about him.

Feeney’s life and choices serve as excellent teachable moments, especially for Christians studying business. This article will explore the story of Feeney, demonstrating how his actions align with biblical principles. Three key aspects of Feeney’s life will be highlighted that reflect the teachings of Jesus: his decision to give away nearly all of his fortune, his insistence on giving in secret, and his commitment to living a modest life. Additionally, the

article will discuss how Feeney's story has been effectively used in the classroom as an inspirational example for students. By understanding and sharing Feeney's life, students are encouraged to aspire to similar values and actions in their own lives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Faith-based literature was reviewed, focusing on specific business leaders and businesses that serve as positive examples. The review included literature from three primary sources: the *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business (JBIB)*, covering the years 1995 to 2023; the *Christian Business Academy Review (CBAR)*, from 2006 to 2024; and the published proceedings of the Christian Business Faculty Association (CBFA) annual conferences, spanning 2017 to 2023. Additionally, other relevant resources, such as books and films, were also examined.

Throughout their history, the *JBIB* and *CBAR* have published relatively few articles that directly highlight people of Christian character. Cafferky (2020) lauds Sharon Johnson, a pillar of the CBFA, and discusses his model for faith integration research. Smith (2015) interviews Shirley Chewning to gain insights into the early years of the *JBIB* and her husband Richard Chewning's contributions. Redmer and Mikles (2005) provide a case study of "George" (a pseudonym), a Salvation Army employee who perseveres through obstacles to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals. Smith and Steen (1996) compare Edward Deming's philosophy of transformation with the spiritual transformation experienced by Christians. Shelton (2010) advocates for using C.S. Lewis's "Law of Right and Wrong" to demonstrate to business students that morality is real and never relative. The intention of these articles is primarily to showcase the integration of faith and character within the realm of business.

Although the *JBIB* and *CBAR* have not frequently spotlighted specific individuals, articles have been published in these two journals that indirectly examine the traits of Christians in business. For example, Winston and Bocarnea (2022) found that employees are positively impacted when they perceive leaders exhibiting the fruit of the spirit, such as patience, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. Knopf et al. (2017) used cluster analysis to investigate whether the Romans 12 motivational gifts and locus of control can predict the membership and motivational gift profiles of entrepreneurs. Seibert

(2011) examined Quaker whaling practices in light of five principles central to the Quaker faith: work is ordained by God, the purpose of business is service, the dignity and equality of all human beings, peacemaking, and steadfast convictions. Such articles explore how Christian values and principles manifest in business settings, offering insights into the positive influence of faith on leadership and organizational practices.

The limited published proceedings of the CBFA do not include topics focused on specific individuals in business as biblical examples. However, the annual CBFA conference has a rich tradition of featuring Christian business leaders as keynote or plenary speakers chosen for their business acumen and Christian character. For instance, at the 2024 CBFA conference, John Coleman, co-CEO of Sovereign Capital, served as a plenary speaker. In 2023, Mark Plaza, co-founder of Olde Man Granola, was the keynote speaker. Other notable speakers at past CBFA conferences have included Celia Swanson, the first female executive VP at Walmart, and Rollin Ford, chief information officer at Walmart. These speakers exemplify the integration of faith and business leadership, providing inspiration and guidance to attendees.

In addition to CBFA-related research, other resources were also reviewed. Michael Zigarelli (2019) is the author of the book *Christian-Owned Companies*, in which he examined fifty businesses run by Christians. Another notable resource that emphasizes specific Christian individuals in business is Seattle Pacific University's (2022) film series *Faith & Co.* Over five seasons, this series highlights companies, organizations, and individuals who reflect the teachings of Jesus in their business practices. Each season focuses on a different theme, such as service to employees, customers, and the world. One season delves into the concept of faithful investing, while another explores the overarching purpose of business. This film series strives to showcase real-life examples of Christian principles in action within the business world.

Although not always focusing on individuals themselves, many books written by Christian business leaders recount how they conduct business guided by their faith. For instance, Max DePree, former CEO of Herman Miller, has authored multiple influential books on leadership. His book *Leadership Is an Art* (DePree, 2005), which has sold over 800,000 copies, is renowned for its insights applicable from both faith-based and ethical servant-leadership perspectives. C. William Pollard, two-time former CEO of the ServiceMaster Company, has written several books, including *The*

Soul of the Firm (Pollard, 1996). Pollard's books cover topics such as leading ServiceMaster, reflecting on God and profits, and making personal life decisions. Richard DeVos, co-founder of the Amway Corporation and former owner of the Orlando Magic, has also authored several books, including *Simply Rich* (2016) and *Compassionate Capitalism* (2021). The topics of DeVos's writing, like Pollard's, extend beyond business to encompass broader life experiences. Other Christian business leaders who have authored books include Cheryl Bachelder (Popeyes Chicken), Dave Ramsey (Ramsey Solutions), Michael Cardone (Cardone Industries), David Green (Hobby Lobby), and Truett Cathy (Chick-fil-A). These authors provide valuable insights into how their faith informs their business practices and life choices.

CHARLES FEENEY

Despite the wealth of literature on Christian businesses and works by Christian authors, there is relatively little that specifically highlights businesspeople whose actions reflect biblical values. This article aims to help fill that void by introducing Feeney, a self-made billionaire whose life exemplified specific Christian principles, including the giving way of wealth, doing it in secret, and living simply.

Give Everything

The Bible is replete with verses, passages, and parables on the topic of money and wealth. By one count, the Bible contains 2,350 verses about money, and Jesus taught 11 parables on the subject (Dayton, 2022). Even with so many teachings, there is not one unified interpretation. Some believe the Bible teaches that wealth should not be excessively accumulated. A prominent advocate of this view has been Ron Sider (2010), whose book *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* (originally published in 1977) argues for giving wealth away. This perspective is supported by other works (Brister et al., 2016; Saunders, 2020; Stichter, 2019; Tippens et al., 2017) and several Bible verses (1 Timothy 6:10, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 6:24, etc.). On the other hand, some books have been written in response to Ron Sider's views, such as David Chilton's (1985) *Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators a Biblical Response to Ronald J. Snider and John Schneider's* (1994) *Godly Materialism*. Chilton and Schneider challenge Sider (and others), arguing that material affluence is not inherently bad nor contrary to biblical teaching.

One of Jesus' most challenging teachings on wealth is found in the story of the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-24). In this well-known passage, Jesus instructs the young ruler to sell his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor. "When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone rich to enter the kingdom of God. Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the kingdom of God'" (Matthew 19:22-24).

There are interpretations of this passage that suggest it should not be taken literally, arguing that Jesus' followers are not necessarily required to give away all their possessions. Three popular interpretations attempt to soften the severity of this teaching. One suggests that the word "camel" might actually refer to a "rope," which, though still difficult, would be easier to thread through the eye of a needle than a camel. Another common explanation posits that the "eye of the needle" was a narrow gate in the walls surrounding Jerusalem. However, closer research discredits both of these theories (Zieminska, 2022). A more plausible interpretation is that Jesus was using hyperbole, a figure of speech that exaggerates for emphasis. Jesus frequently used hyperbole in his teachings, such as when he spoke of a "plank" in someone's eye (Matthew 7:3-5) or swallowing a "camel" (Matthew 23:24).

Like many biblical lessons, the meaning of the parable of the rich young ruler remains uncertain, as we see through a glass darkly (1 Corinthians 13:12). Yet it is clear that very few of us—especially the ultra-wealthy—have given away all, or even most, of our possessions. According to Forbes research, members of the 2023 Forbes 400 list have collectively given away less than 6% of their combined net worth. Only 11 individuals have donated more than 20% of their wealth (Liu, 2023). As of the beginning of 2024, the most generous is Warren Buffett, who has given away less than 50% of his wealth—amounting to \$62 billion in lifetime giving—while retaining a net worth of \$146.7 billion (Dolan et al., 2025). Anyone who has given away all or even most of their money, especially someone extremely wealthy, is a rare individual. Charles "Chuck" Feeney is one such person.

Feeney grew up in a working-class family in Elizabeth, New Jersey, during the Great Depression. Utilizing the GI Bill, he attended Cornell University, studying at the Hotel School of Administration. Always hustling to make a buck, Feeney was involved in various businesses. His most

lucrative venture was co-founding the Duty Free Shoppers Group, which made him and his partners billionaires.

Early on, Feeney became uncomfortable with the wealth he was accumulating. He was torn between the enjoyment of what wealth could bring and his discomfort with an elegant lifestyle. By the age of 40, Feeney was showing increasing signs of discomfort with the trappings of wealth and the sense of entitlement that accompanied it. He doubted his right to have so much money, believing he was rich beyond all expectations and beyond what he deserved. Feeney concluded that money, buying boats and all the trimmings did not appeal to him. Consequently, he intentionally began cultivating a frugal lifestyle.

Feeney became a student of the literature of philanthropy, deeply influenced by the writings and philosophies of Reverend Frederick Gates, Andrew Carnegie, and others. Reverend Gates, a Baptist minister and principal business and philanthropic adviser to John D. Rockefeller, the world's first billionaire, offered a stark warning to Rockefeller: "Mr. Rockefeller, your fortune is rolling up like an avalanche! You must distribute it faster than it grows! If you do not, it will crush you and your children and your children's children!" (Mechanic, 2020). This advice resonated deeply with Feeney and troubled him, underscoring the responsibility that comes with great wealth.

Feeney also immersed himself in Carnegie's (1889) famous essay, "The Gospel of Wealth," first published in June 1889 in the *North American Review* under the title "Wealth." Carnegie espoused that the best way to dispose of surplus wealth was to give it away while still alive and to lead a life of modesty, avoiding ostentatious displays of wealth. One of Carnegie's most famous quotes from the essay is, "The man who dies thus rich dies disgraced" (Carnegie, 1889). This philosophy greatly influenced Feeney, solidifying his belief in the importance of not only giving, but giving away everything.

Even though Feeney was inspired by Carnegie, there were two key differences between the men. Carnegie amassed his fortune through ruthless and often harsh business methods, whereas Feeney's approach to business was not marked by such aggression. Additionally, Carnegie sought recognition for his philanthropy, with his name adorning libraries and schools, while Feeney pursued anonymity. Despite these differences, the core principle that resonated with Feeney was the importance of giving while alive.

On March 1, 1982, the Atlantic Foundation was officially established with an initial \$5 million contribution

from Feeney. The foundation aimed to support projects across the world to relieve poverty and suffering, to advance education, and to help causes such as health, children and youth, old age, and international justice. To ensure clarity of purpose, every person involved with the foundation received a copy of Andrew Carnegie's essay "The Gospel of Wealth." This underscored Feeney's intent to give away his fortune, a move that was historically unprecedented and starkly contrasted with the conspicuous consumption that characterized the 1980s, known as the Decade of Greed (Taylor, 1992). Despite the enormity of this decision, Feeney did not recall a singular epiphany or engage in extensive philosophical deliberation afterward. He described the decision-making process as straightforward: "I came to the conclusion I didn't need a lot of money because I didn't intend to live a lifestyle that required it" (O'Clery, 2007).

Apart from setting aside money and homes for his wife and children, Feeney was ready to irrevocably give all but a fraction of his wealth to the Atlantic Foundation. Once the gift was made, there would be no possibility of reversal. The funds would be irrevocably transferred and no longer under his ownership. On November 23, 1984, the day after Thanksgiving, Feeney, at the age of fifty-three, signed away his fortune of \$7 billion. It was one of the single largest transfers of wealth in history. It took nearly four decades for the Atlantic Foundation to distribute all the money, a feat officially accomplished in September 2020. Feeney lived to see his goal achieved before passing away at the age of 92 in October 2023 (McFadden, 2023).

Of his original estimated \$8 billion fortune, Feeney gave away all but about \$2 million, which he retained for to support himself and his wife. Though he did not give away everything, he did donate 99.9975% of his wealth. Feeney, known for his many adages, would often say, "I want the last check that I write to bounce" (as cited in Dwyer, 2012). Feeney's remarkable achievement of philanthropy is a powerful testament to living out the principles of generosity and humility as Jesus instructed.

Give in Secret

Jesus taught that when we give, we should avoid drawing attention to ourselves. He emphasized the importance of humility and secrecy in acts of charity, underscoring the spiritual value of giving without seeking recognition or praise. Instead, we should give discreetly, so no one is aware of our generosity. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructed his followers: "Be careful not

to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So, when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:1-4, NIV).

Jesus’ instruction to give so that our left hand does not know what our right hand is doing might be considered ambiguous and open to interpretation. For instance, should Christian individuals or families who donate large sums of money remain anonymous? Often, donors are recognized by having programs or buildings named after them. For example, the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University is named after E.W. Kelley, who donated \$23 million to the school. Similarly, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the world’s largest philanthropic organizations, bears the names of its founders and principal contributors. Could this type of high-profile giving, where donors’ names are publicized, be what Jesus was referring to when he warned against practicing righteousness in front of others to be seen by them? Does such giving violate the admonition to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?

Unlike many others, Feeney deliberately gave away his fortune in secret. In contrast to the Pharisees, who performed their acts of charity for public recognition, Feeney chose to give quietly and without fanfare. He went to great lengths to ensure his philanthropy remained anonymous, establishing the Atlantic Foundation in 1982. Feeney two years later transferred nearly his entire fortune, an estimated \$8 billion, to the foundation, mandating that it be given away in secret. Gifts were given anonymously. Recipients of the funds were not informed of their source and were required to sign confidentiality agreements. These agreements stipulated that if any information about Feeney or the Atlantic Foundation was disclosed publicly, the donations would cease. As a result, the Atlantic Foundation became the largest secret foundation in the world.

From the outset, Feeney was determined to receive no recognition for his donations. “There would be no plaques or names on buildings he funded, no black-tie thank you dinners, no honorary degrees” (O’Clery, 2007, p. 233). He wanted to remain anonymous, ensuring that beneficiaries were unaware of his involvement with the

Atlantic Foundation. Feeney’s commitment to secret giving exemplifies a humility and authenticity that closely aligns with Jesus’ teachings on righteous conduct. Despite the complexities involved in discreetly giving away an \$8 billion fortune, Feeney succeeded. His example of generosity, giving away nearly everything, is profoundly inspiring for Christians—not just for the magnitude of his philanthropy but perhaps even more so for his adherence to the principle of not letting his left hand know what his right hand was doing.

Feeney’s altruism came to light through investigative journalism by *Forbes* and *The New York Times* (Ramsay, 2021). Eventually, Feeney reluctantly allowed his life story to be told in the 2007 book *The Billionaire Who Wasn’t* (O’Clery, 2007), with one reason being to inspire other affluent individuals. As Feeney himself remarked, “It’s much more fun to give while you are alive than to give when you are dead” (Delouya, 2023, para. 6). His actions indeed influenced his peers. Warren Buffett regards Feeney as his hero, stating that “he should be everybody’s hero” (as cited in Mechanic, 2020). Bill Gates also considers Feeney his hero and acknowledges him for paving the way for other philanthropists (Bertoni, 2020). Feeney’s example inspired the creation of the Giving Pledge in 2010 by Buffett and Gates, which has attracted 241 ultra-wealthy signatories pledging to allocate the majority of their wealth to charitable causes. Notably, Feeney’s distinction lies in that he gave away not only the majority of his wealth but over 99.9% of his wealth. Buffet has said “it will take me 12 years after my death to get done what he’s doing within his lifetime” (as cited in Cao, 2020, para. 10).

Although public accolades remained unacceptable to Feeney, some beneficiaries have found subtle ways to express their gratitude. For instance, the Da Nang General Hospital in Vietnam, which received hundreds of millions of dollars from the Atlantic Foundation, has been painted a brilliant shamrock green—a discreet nod to the Irish-American Feeney (Roosevelt, 2008). However, Feeney’s name does not appear on the hospital, and there are no plaques honoring him on its walls.

Live Simply

The Bible often teaches us to live simply and not to seek material wealth or possessions. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs us to store our treasures in heaven rather than on earth (Matthew 6:19-20). Jesus tells us not to worry about our basic needs—food, drink, and clothing—because God will provide for us just as God cares for the birds and the flowers of the field (Matthew 6:25-34).

The apostle Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Therefore, we should be content if we have food and clothing (1 Timothy 6:7-8). He also warns that “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil,” and that some, eager for wealth, have strayed from the faith and inflicted many griefs upon themselves (1 Timothy 6:10). Additionally, in the book of Hebrews, we are encouraged to be content with what we have (Hebrews 13:5).

Throughout the decades when Feeney was secretly giving away his billions, he shunned material possessions and lived simply, embodying biblical teachings on humility, giving, and contentment. Feeney was not captivated by the allure of worldly possessions. Like his billionaire peers, he could have easily owned private jets, yachts, and sports cars. However, unlike his billionaire peers, Feeney owned none of these—not even a car. Instead, he flew on commercial flights, preferring economy class. According to Feeney, first class arrives no earlier than economy class (Neate, 2020). For getting around locally, Feeney walked or used public transportation (Dwyer, 2007).

Feeney avoided fine dining at expensive restaurants, preferring a simple tomato and cheese sandwich. Rather than luxury clothes, tailored suits, and gold watches, he dressed modestly and even described his style as shabby, wearing a \$15 Casio watch (Miller, 1997). Feeney owned only one pair of shoes because that is all he can wear at a time. Instead of carrying a Gucci briefcase, Feeney used a plastic bag for his belongings. His lifestyle was a powerful testament to his commitment to living simply and giving generously.

According to Niall O’Dowd (2020), editor of *Irish-America* magazine and a friend of Feeney, “The way he copes with his wealth is to never remove himself from his working-class persona. He keeps grounded by acting like it hasn’t happened to him — like basically he is still the same guy” (as cited in Roosevelt, 2008). While there is no definitive argument that Christians must live like Feeney, shunning material possessions and the trappings of wealth, his lifestyle closely mirrored that of Jesus, who also lived, and died, with very little.

During His public ministry, Jesus and His disciples relied on the hospitality of others as they traveled and ministered from town to town (Matthew 10:9-10). Jesus once told a would-be follower, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head” (Luke 9:58). When Jesus was crucified, His worldly possessions amounted to little more than the clothes on His back, which were divided among

the soldiers (John 19:23-24). Feeney’s life, characterized by simplicity, generosity and shunning riches, serves as a modern example of living in accordance with these biblical principles.

DISCUSSION

This article has highlighted three distinct attributes of Feeney that reflect Christian principles: giving everything, giving in secret, and living simply. These traits are not only rare in today’s world but also historically significant and provide valuable lessons for students. While it can be argued that Feeney’s actions align with biblical teachings, definitive interpretations of these teachings remain elusive. As Paul suggests, our present understanding is incomplete (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Christian Lifestyle

It could be argued that, despite the commendable nature of Feeney’s lifestyle and generosity, these traits are not necessarily markers of a Christian life. Many wealthy individuals who identify as Christians lead luxurious lives and receive public recognition for their donations, such as having their names on buildings. The ambiguity of biblical instructions regarding wealth and simplicity lends itself to interesting discussions and questions: Does the Bible encourage Christians to give away their wealth? Is it difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God? What constitutes being rich? Should Christians live simply, free of earthly luxury possessions? What would such a lifestyle look like?

Other questions for discussion are more sensitive. Although Feeney lived a life that reflected many Christian values, was he himself a Christian? What does it mean to be a Christian, and can one be certain of their faith? If Feeney was not a Christian, does that diminish the value of his story for Christians? Does his faith status even matter?

Feeney’s personal faith is largely unknown. He spoke little about his beliefs, leading some writers to suggest he may not have been a Christian (Brown, 2020; Ramsay, 2021). One of his few statements on the matter pertained to his Catholic upbringing: “I was raised a Catholic, but I got up to go to church because I thought I’d be hit by a bolt of lightning if I didn’t” (as cited in Ramsay, 2021, para 16). This sentiment, while common among youth (and some adult churchgoers), might indicate that Feeney distanced himself from the Christian faith as he grew

older. Alternatively, it could be that, just as Feeney preferred to maintain a low profile in his philanthropy, his faith was a personal matter he chose not to discuss openly.

A biblical case can be made that, rather than practicing faith publicly, visible to others to see, it should be done quietly without drawing attention to oneself. Jesus warned against public displays of piety, advocating instead for private devotion. Jesus instructed his followers to pray in secret and condemned those that pray openly and flamboyantly (Matthew 6:5-7). Jesus taught that when fasting, do not let it be apparent to others (Matthew 6:16-18). Righteousness, including giving, praying, and fasting, should be done discreetly. This perspective suggests that Feeney, in keeping with his overall approach to life, may have been a believer who chose not to parade his faith before others.

Integration in Class

One effective method to introduce students to Feeney is through a combination of readings, films, and discussions. Depending on the time available, various resources can be utilized to give students a comprehensive understanding of Feeney's life and values. For in-depth seminars, the authorized biography *The Billionaire Who Wasn't: How Chuck Feeney Secretly Made and Gave Away a Fortune* by Conor O'Clery (2007) provides a detailed account of Feeney's journey, capturing his emotions and thoughts.

However, it is not necessary to read the entire book to grasp the essence of Feeney's character. Shorter readings and film clips can be effectively used in any course. For example, in an undergraduate business course, Feeney can be presented through a selection of brief readings and film excerpts assigned as homework. The recommended readings are:

1. "Out of Sight, Till Now, and Giving Away Billions" (Dwyer, 2007)
2. "The Billionaire Who Wanted to Die Broke... Is Now Broke" (Bertoni, 2020)
3. "Bill Gates' Philanthropy Role Model Has Officially Given Away All His Money" (Cao, 2020)

Complementing these readings are three film clips:

1. "Secret Billionaire: The Chuck Feeney Story" (The Atlantic Philanthropies, 2010)
2. "Giving While Living: Making a Difference" (The Atlantic Philanthropies, 2017)
3. "The Billionaire Who Wanted to Die Broke Is Now Officially Broke" (Forbes, 2020)

These materials can be assigned as homework before a class discussion. The discussion can be tailored in length

and depth according to the course requirements. Topics for discussion can be drawn from themes explored in the previous section of this article.

This approach, used for several years in undergraduate business courses, has consistently produced two outcomes: students are unfamiliar with Feeney prior to the assignment, and they are invariably impressed by his life and philanthropic philosophy. Learning about Feeney offers significant value to students, whether undergraduate or graduate, by broadening their understanding of how to genuinely live and practice Christian principles. Feeney's example inspires students to incorporate similar values and actions into their own lives, demonstrating that true success, from a Christian perspective, is through humility, generosity, and a commitment to helping others.

CONCLUSION

Charles "Chuck" Feeney was a rare, unique, and remarkable individual whose story deserves to be better known. This article aims to highlight Feeney's life to those who will appreciate, be edified by, and share the life story of Feeney with others who will benefit and be inspired. Few individuals who have amassed such wealth have been willing to give it all away without seeking acknowledgment. Feeney did so, not with a heavy heart but with joy and willingness, finding fulfillment in being generous. The life of Charles Feeney exemplifies the teachings of Jesus, as he gave away his riches without seeking attention and lived simply. Feeney's example is a testament to living the Christian attributes of humility, generosity, and joy in giving.

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