

Lesson 13

God's Plan for Giving

Money is not the important thing in serving God, obedience is. However, it is impossible to carry on God's work without money. It takes money to send missionaries and to pay bills. From the beginning it has been God's plan for God's people to give to carry on His work. Abraham gave tithes. (*Tithe* means **ten percent**.) Under the Law of Moses, Israel was required to give tithes. In the New Testament we still have a responsibility to carry on God's work with our money.

Giving is Investing with God.

When we give our money at church to carry on the work, we are not giving it away, but investing it. We are promised blessings here on earth and rewards in heaven.

Giving brings blessings here on earth.

Luke 6:38:

Give, and it shall be _____ unto you; _____ measure, _____ down, and _____ together, and _____ over, shall men _____ into your bosom. For with the same _____ that ye mete withal it shall be _____ to you again.

Giving brings rewards in heaven.

Matthew 6:19-21:

Lay not up for yourselves _____ upon _____, where _____ and _____ doth _____, and where _____ break through and _____: But lay up for yourselves _____ in _____, where neither _____ nor _____ doth _____, and

where _____ do not _____ through nor _____: For where your _____ is, there will your _____ be also.

Assignment: Read 2 Corinthians chapter 9 and answer these questions.

1. If we sow sparingly, how will we reap? v.6 _____
2. If we sow bountifully, how will we reap? v.6 _____
3. From where should a man purpose to give? v.7 _____
4. What kind of giver does God love? v.7 _____

Giving Recognizes God's Ownership

When we give, we are actually giving back to God that which He has given to us. Everything that we have came from God. Without the health and abilities that God has given us, we would have nothing. When we give from the heart, we acknowledge that God owns everything that we have.

We are not our own.

I Corinthians 6:19-20:

What? know ye not that your _____ is the _____ of the _____ which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are _____ your _____? For ye are _____ with a _____: therefore _____ God in your _____, and in your _____, which are _____.

All good things come from God.

James 1:17:

Every _____ gift and every _____ gift is from _____, and _____ down from the _____ of lights, with whom is no _____, neither _____ of _____.

Assignment: Read Acts 5:1-11 and answer these questions.

1. What is the name of the man and wife that sold a possession? v.1

2. Did they give all of the money? v.2 _____

3. To whom did they lie? v.3 _____

4. What happened to Ananias? v.5 _____

5. What happened to his wife? v.10 _____

6. What happened to the church as a result of this? v.11 _____

Giving Should Demonstrate Love, Not Law

God has never looked to the world to support His work. He has always looked to His people. Giving should be an act of love and gratitude on the part of His people and not the keeping of a law. Under the Law of Moses, Israel was required to give a tenth of their income. In the New Testament we do not find anyone giving less than ten percent, but we find some who gave half or even all they had. They were not giving by law, but by love.

Zacchaeus gave half.

Luke 19:8:

And _____ stood, and said unto the _____;

Behold, Lord, the _____ of my _____ I

_____ to the _____; and if I have _____ any

thing from any man by _____ accusation, I _____

him _____.

A widow gave her all.

Luke 21:3-4:

And he said, Of a _____ I say unto you, that this _____

_____ hath _____ in _____ than they all: For

all these have of their _____ cast in unto the _____

of God: but she of her _____ hath _____ in all the

_____ that she had.

Assignment: Read Luke 19:1-10 and answer these questions.

1. What was Zacchaeus financial condition? v.2 _____

2. Why could he not see Jesus? v.3 _____

3. What did he do to see Jesus? v.4 _____

4. How did he receive Jesus into his house? v.6 _____

5. How much did Zacchaeus say he would restore if he had taken anything by

false accusation? v.8 _____

6. What did Jesus come to seek and to save? v.10 _____

Giving Should be Systematic and Proportionate

When we say that giving should be systematic, we mean that it should be done on a regular basis - every week. When we say that giving should be proportionate, we mean that it should be a certain part of our income. That means that our giving must be planned ahead of time in our heart. We must decide how much we will give and how often we will give it.

Giving is to be regular.

1 Corinthians 16:2:

Upon the _____ day of the _____ let every one of you

_____ by him in _____, as _____ hath

_____ him, that there be no _____

when I come.

Giving should be from the heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7:

Every man _____ as he purposeth in his _____,

so let him _____; not _____, or of necessity:
for God _____ a _____ giver.

Assignment: Read Acts 11:27-30 and answer these questions.

1. What did Agabus say was coming? v.28 _____
2. How did the disciples determine to send relief to those in Judaea? v.29

3. Who carried the money to Jerusalem? v.30 _____

Giving is Not a Matter of How Much We Have

God does not expect us to give what we do not have. God does expect us to give of what we have, even if it is little. It is not how much we give, but how we give. If God cannot trust us in small matters, like giving, He will not trust to us greater things.

It is important to be faithful in little.

Luke 16:10-11:

He that is _____ in that which is _____ is
_____ also in _____: and he that is _____
in the _____ is _____ also in _____.
If therefore ye have not been _____ in the unrighteous
_____ who will _____ to your _____ the
true _____?

It does not matter what a man does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:12:

For if there be _____ a willing _____ it is
accepted _____ to that a man _____ and not
_____ to that he hath _____.

Assignment: Read Mark 12:41-44 and answer these questions.

1. Who was watching the people cast their money into the treasury? v.41

2. Who cast in much money? v.41 _____
3. How much money did the widow give? v.42 _____
4. Who did Jesus say gave the most? v.43 _____
5. How much did Jesus say the widow gave? v.44 _____

DO THE TEST FOR LESSON 13