

Giving

Matthew 6:1-4; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 4 Lesson 5

Supplemental Texts

Gen 18:1-14

Focus Verse

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” – Luke 6:38

Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about giving to the poor and needy around us. We will always have them with us, and so we should always extend our generosity to them. Giving is especially important within the family of God (Gal 6:10) and must be done joyfully (2 Cor 9:7) as it comes with rewards (Matt 6:4; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor 9:6). Giving exhibits our faith (Jas 2:14-17).

Deeper Look

Do Not Show Off Your Giving – Matt 6:1-4; Luke 6:38

Jesus taught His hearers to not show off their alms. The “alms” indicates charitable deeds; it also refers to “deeds of righteousness.” Considering Matt 5:20, “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” and the topics covered in Matt 6:1-18, righteous deeds include giving, prayer, and fasting. “Do not sound a trumpet” is an expression used to mean do not make giving a public show. Hypocrite is one who pretends to be what he is not. If our intent of giving is to be seen by others, then we forfeit our reward because it shows we esteem human praises more than the reward from God. Luke 6:38 reads “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

God Loves A Cheerful Giver – 2 Cor 9:1-15

Paul wrote to applaud the church at Corinth because of their willingness to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem. We are given a principle here that our reward will correspond to the amount of giving we do, if done cheerfully (*vv.* 6-7). The reward is loads of God’s blessings with which we may continue in charitable deeds (*v.* 8). A joyful giving brings relief to the recipients and returns glory and praises to God. Let us bear in mind that we can do more giving within the family of God for it will help them to see the hand of God in their situations.

Questions

1. What part should giving play in our Christian Walk? What is the consequence of giving with an ulterior motive?
2. How would you simply explain Matt 6:3? Is complying with this principle easy for everyone to do? Why, or why not? How can we do our giving while complying with the principle?
3. What is the central message in Luke 6:38? What would indicate that Christians believe in this truth? What counsel is presented in the verse to anyone who desires to give?
4. How can the spirit of giving be stirred up among the people of God today? What is admirable about Paul in his letter to the Christians at Achaia? For whose benefit was the letter written?
5. Is there a room for competition with others in giving? How can we determine the amount of giving we should do? In all our giving endeavors, what elements must be always present?
6. When you give, you become God's representative to the recipient. What does your giving mean to God if it is done with love and to the recipient?
7. What is the difference between a person who gives sparingly and a person who gives bountifully? What is the outcome of their giving? See 2 Cor 9:6.

Personal Meditation

Giving seems simple that we think everyone will do it, yet only a few people do. If we are instructed by Jesus to do it, then it must be something we must make all effort to do. It does not come naturally. As a proof, when was the last time you gave? Giving does not have to be about money alone. There are many things we can give, for example, we can give our time, material things, words of kindness, food, help, the list goes on.

As 2 Cor 9:7 reads, God loves a cheerful giver. The charitable deeds that attract rewards are those done cheerfully and lovingly without any grudge or intention to show off. To sound a trumpet is to crave the praises of people, which reveals our pride and intent on taking God's glory. God really does not look favorably on proud people (Jas 4:6). So, be careful.

By sowing a seed, we get the harvest for our supply, and we get more seeds to sow again. It is a principle God established, and it works for farmers (Prov 11:24-25; 2 Cor 9:10). God gave us Jesus freely, Who in turn reconciles all men to Him by His death on the cross. Think about it.

DAILY STUDY

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| Monday | Matt 6:1-2 |
| Tuesday | Matt 6:3-4 |
| Wednesday | Luke 6:38 |
| Thursday | 2 Cor 9:1-5 |
| Friday | 2 Cor 9:6-10 |
| Saturday | 2 Cor 9:11-15 |



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