



GIVING IS BLESSING

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

GIVING IS BLESSING

Copyright © 2020 by Global Leadership Center

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other, without the prior permission of GLC.

EXPLORE

Let It Go

What is one thing that is most difficult for you to give and let go? Share briefly with the group why.

Learning Nugget:

It is God's grace that enables us to give. By nature, we are takers more than givers. Some of us don't give because we do not know the promises of God. Unless our hearts have been renewed, we cannot give generously for giving is our response to God's grace.

EXAMINE

GIVING IS BLESSING

I. Reveals Your Heart

Money is an exact index to a man's true character.
- Richard Halverson

- The Bible has more verses on money and giving than prayers combined with love.
- How we deal with money reveals our intimacy with the Lord.

THE STORY OF THE RICH YOUNG MAN

Luke 18:18-24

A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."²⁰ You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.'²¹ And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."²² When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad for he was extremely rich.²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!

-
- The young man came to see Jesus and asks, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” The problem is the question starts out wrong. He is thinking he can do something to earn eternal life.
 - Jesus, as a master teacher, did not correct him immediately. He turned it around and said, “Good. Who is good? Only God is good.” This young man is thinking he is good enough to enter heaven.
 - Jesus knew the problem of this man. He violated the first commandment – “You shall have no other gods before Me.” He loved money more than he loved God.

None of us can enthrone the true God unless in the process we dethrone our other gods.
- Randy Alcorn

An idol is anything that takes the place of God in your life.

Matthew 6:21

for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one or love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth (mammon).

- God is not saying it is hard. He is saying it is impossible. You cannot serve God plus something else at the same time.
- This is the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount - to differentiate genuine believers from counterfeit believers. Jesus is telling us that we cannot serve God and money.

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- There is nothing wrong with money, the love of money is the problem.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RICH

1 Timothy 6:17-18

*Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,*

- Just because you are rich does not mean you have to sell all in order to go to heaven. But make sure money is not your god.
- It is not the amount of money. It is your attitude toward money.

**He who provides for this life but takes not care for eternity
is wise for a moment but a fool forever.
- John Tillotson**

II. Recognizes God's Ownership

Giving is a reminder of God's ownership

***"... the primary purpose for the tithe is to put God first
in our lives."
-Rick Ezell***

-
- God does not need our money but God wants us to give. Why? To protect us, to remind us that He owns everything.
 - There is a big difference between a steward, a manager and an owner.
 - God owns our money.

THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING

Genesis 14:20

*And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him **a tenth** of all.*

Genesis 28:22

*... and of all that You give me I will surely give **a tenth** to You.”*

- Abram practiced tithing before Moses even gave the law.
- Tithing means ten percent. It is from the Hebrew word ten.

Leviticus 27:30

*‘Thus **all the tithe** of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the LORD.*

- The tithe belongs to the Lord. We are not yet giving when we tithe because the ten percent belongs to God.

Deuteronomy 8:18

“But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, ...”

- Even the ability to make money comes from God.

Malachi 3:8

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In **tithes** and offerings.*

- How can you and I rob God? By keeping something that belongs to Him. If we don't give our tithes, the Bible says that we are robbing the Lord.

Malachi 3:10

Bring** the whole **tithe** into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and **test** Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a **blessing until it overflows.

- God asks us to *bring*, not *give* because the tithe is His.
- Our storehouse is CCF as our local church, where we worship.
- God does not need our money, but He asks us to tithe for our own good.
- God did not have to give this promise but He says, “**test** Me now in this if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a **blessing until it overflows**”

Malachi 3:11-12

“Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the LORD of hosts. All the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land”...

- Many of us are not able to experience the reality of God in our life.
- Tithing is a principle of living.
- God is saying, “I will protect you.”

NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT TITHING

Teaching of Jesus

Matthew 23:23

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you **tithe** mint and dill and cummin (these are expensive herbs), and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things **you should have done** without neglecting the others.*

- Jesus never abolished tithing. In fact, if we look at Matthew chapter 5, Jesus says,

Matthew 5:19

“Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them shall be called great in the Kingdom of heaven.

-
- When the Bible says that the old covenant is gone and the new covenant has come, it is talking about salvation.

Teaching of Paul

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia (present day Turkey), so do you also. ²On the first day of every week **each one** of you is to **put aside and save, as he may prosper**, so that no collections be made when I come.*

- Paul was giving a command. The word 'direct' is a Greek word for military officer.
- Paul instructs each one - rich or poor. Each one is to put aside and save. We are to give proportionately as we may prosper (proportionate giving). This is exactly the same command given in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

III. Receives God's Blessings

God promises to bless us. Some of us don't give because we do not know the promises of God. By nature, we don't like to give. We keep on worrying.

Luke 6:38

give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over...”

- When God gives us a command, it is always for our good - to protect us and to bless us.

Acts 20:34-35

*...in everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'***

- We should give according to the Master's purpose - God's mission, evangelism, discipleship.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

*Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord** and to us by the will of God.*

- The churches in Macedonia experienced great affliction, they were suffering but they were full of joy. They were poor but they overflowed with their liberality. They were generous.
- Giving is not the privilege of the rich. It is for everybody, rich or poor.
- The churches in Macedonia were so touched by the grace of God. Giving is voluntary, but they gave beyond their ability.
- Many times, we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to see how God can bless people.
- Never, ever think that you can outgive God.
- Unless our hearts have been renewed, touched by the Lord, we cannot give generously.

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

- Jesus, the King of kings became poor, took the form of a man to die for you and for me. Once we understand the grace of God, that God gave His all so that you and I might become rich, why will we not give our life back to Him?
- Generosity is a by-product of intimacy with the Lord. The more we know God and His grace, the more we will be generous. To give generously and joyfully requires a new heart.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.

- John Wesley

The discipline of giving will reveal our heart, will enable us to recognize that God is the owner of everything, and will let God bless us. Giving is a blessing in itself, and it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Why Give?** What is the warning of Jesus to His followers according to Matthew 6:1–4? How must we give?
2. **Giving Quotient.** Do you tithe? What is the greatest test in tithing that you have experienced so far?
3. **Blessed to Give.** How might you bless others by giving? What would you specifically do to give this week?

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....