

## “The Blessed Giver”

**Scripture:** Matthew 22:21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, " Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

### **Introduction:**

Someone asked me not long ago **how much** money they should give at church. Their question was related to tithing.

### **Lesson:**

#### **I. Giving includes many things**

A. When you think of giving what crosses your mind?

-Money?

B. While giving certainly includes money it also includes other things to:

-Time

-Attention

-Ourselves to God

C. Today already there has been a lot of giving going on:

-The time to come to worship assembly

-Classroom instruction

-All the preparation time by teacher and student

-Praise to God in Songs

-Prayer to God

-Encouragement to each other

-And latter we will have an opportunity to give financially as the Lord has blessed us.

\*All these are acts of giving

#### **II. Well, what is Giving really all about?**

A. First, let me ask you why you give each week?

-Because your suppose to?

-So we can pay the light bill or a building payment?

-Or so we can pay the preacher?

B. While these things happen as a result of our giving I want you to know that if God wants these lights on they will stay on with or without your money.

C. Our giving should come from a heart of desire as an act of worship to God Almighty

- D. Boiled down giving is not a collection of the little extra money we have at the end of the week to pay a few bills.
- E. Giving is a sacrifice offered as an act of worship to God.
- F. Understanding that giving is a sacrifice shed's a lot of light on the subject.

1. In the Old Testament there were sacrifices of:

- Grain, oil and flour
- Fragrant aroma sacrifices

- Animals
- Devotion...Burnt offering
- Sin offering
- Memorial....Passover

- And others as well.

2. But these sacrifices were taken very seriously:

- And they were planned for...didn't just swing by the temple on the way home from work

- When they determined how big their fields were it included a portion for God.

- In managing their flocks, they spent careful time picking out the spotted and unblemished 1<sup>st</sup> born, raising them carefully so as to have a pleasing sacrifice before the Lord.

- They thought about their devotion offerings ahead of time

- Sacrifices were prayed about and considered carefully

- And sacrifices were understood to be an act of worship before God.

- \*In the worshippers mind giving was a sacred privilege.

- \*Church do we see our giving in this way....if not we need to make a change.

### **III. God's instructions on giving**

- A. First, we are to give from a humble heart.

- Read Matthew 6:1-2

*"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.*

-Not sounding a trumpet

-Striking a coin off the rim of the pot so all will hear and see

-Flaunting your gift making others aware of how much your giving

\*Gaining attention for yourselves

-And not in arrogance

-Discussing it with others

\*But it is to be done in private....between you and God.

\*Humble giving is not hard when you remember that its not yours anyway

B. And we are to give regularly

1. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2

*"On 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."*

2. Paul instructs the Corinthians to set aside money for their giving on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of every week.

-And being on the first day of the week it is to be understood and included in our acts of worship each Lord's Day.

C. Also, our giving is to be liberally

1. Read Luke 21:1-4

*"And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. 3 And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; 4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."*

-How could she give up her food money?

-Simply because she trusted God.

\*Brethren, sometimes we might have to trust the Lord with our food money too.

-We speak of faith often

-But, maybe our faith needs a little work?

-I guarantee this woman didn't go home and starve to death

\*God took care of her!

2. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6

*“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

3. In Warwickshire England there is a cemetery near an ivy-grown church building with a head stone of particular interest that reads as follows:

*Here lies a miser who lived for himself  
And cared for nothing but gathering Pelf (Money or Riches)  
Now, where he is or how he fares ...nobody knows and nobody cares.*

- \* On the other hand in Saint Paul’s Cathedral in London there is an epitaph that reads like this:

*Sacred to the memory of Charles George Gordon,  
Who at all times and everywhere gave his strength to the weak  
His substance to the poor  
His sympathy to the suffering  
And his heart to God.*

D. Then, God tells us to give with the right attitude

1. When some people give you would think they are making an IRS payment  
-They look like they were wined on a pickle

2. God tells us our attitude is really important:

-Read 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.”*

-So, God loves a cheerful giver

-When was the last time you wanted to jump up and shout  
*glory hallelujah* as you put your money in the plate?

-If we don’t feel that way we should be asking why not.

-Also it says not to give grudgingly

-Not with regret, sadness or sorrow

-When the kids were smaller they wouldn’t always want to put the money in the plate when it went by.

-You had to pry it out of their hands.

-And not under compulsion

-Not out of necessity

-Because we have to

\*But out of desire  
-We want to

#### **IV. We have a responsibility with what God gives us**

A. Do you remember the parable of the talents in Matthew Chapter 25

-Really all that we have belongs to God and we are merely stewards of it.

\*And will be held accountable for it.

#### **V. God's question to man about his giving**

A. Read Malachi 3:8-9

*8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"*

B. Ananias & Sapphira in Acts 5:1-10

-God struck them dead as a result of the way they handled their giving.

\*Church giving is serious

-And I am concerned that we fail to place importance on it in our lives.

#### **Conclusion:**

**Maybe the question should not be how much should we give  
....but with what heart and unto what end.**

#### **I want to remind you of God's promises**

Matthew 6:4

*4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."*

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. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return"*

Malachi 3:10

*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."*

**Let us praise God with our sacrifice of giving today!**