

Joyful Generosity Revisited Part 1

May 21, 2023

Various

Luke 7:36-50, a woman described as a sinner, crying, and with no hope of living righteously. Like her, we can't reverse all the sin we have done – but Jesus can wash us white as snow, Is. 1:18. The response to salvation: sacrifice, giving, and gratitude.

Biblical Theology of Giving: not for the unbeliever. They need to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and forsake their sin and deny themselves. Joyful generosity is the response to God's grace to save us-and even more so excel still more and more, 1 Thess. 4:1.

What is the Heart Attitude of Sacrificial Giving to the Lord?

- 1) **Give because of God's Ownership:** Ps. 24:1-2, He comes conquering: Zech. 14, Rev. 19. He owns everything: implications: Abortion: the baby in the womb belongs to Him. Marriage: God gave it and defines it. My will: He owns me. We don't have the right to reject Christ, Matt. 11:29 is a command not an option. Being a slave of God has many benefits, Rom. 6:6-10. God owns us and all we possess is loaned to us: lives, marriage, family, gifts, etc.
- 2) **Give because of God's Grace:** Matt. 19:16-26, the point of this passage: We can't please God with works. Our idols keep us from God. God must be the only one in our life. Our treasure should be in heaven. Why it is impossible to obtain salvation: 1) I can't reach God: Eph. 2:1: 2) Polluted minds/infected heart: Gen. 6:5, Rom. 8:7-8, we are hostile towards God. 3) Enslaved to Satan and sin: Jn. 8:44, Eph. 2:2, 1 Tim. 3:6. 4) Can't Change Myself: Acts 16:14, Jer. 13:23, Matt. 7:18, Jn. 1:13, Tit. 3:5, 1 Pet. 1:23, 1 Jn. 5:4, 2 Cor. 5:17, Jn. 5:21. God enables us to be born again and that is why we give.
- 3) **Give because of God's Provision:** 2 Cor. 9:6-8, having the proper heart attitude. Expectation: V6, sparingly: scantily, frugally, what can be spared vs. bountiful expectations. Consideration: V7, give with thoughtfulness, not in grief or begrudgingly, or under compulsion. Anticipation: V8, God will provide all that is needed for you.
- 4) **Give because of God's Church:** Eph. 4:8, 11, God has given gifts. The church has been built on the back of shepherds and they are a blessing from God. 1) Because of their gifting from Christ, Eph. 4:8, 11. 2) Because of their calling from God. 3) Because of their training and growth in Christ: 1 Tim. 4:6, through study and learning. 4) Because of their testing: 2 Tim. 2:15. 5) Because of their burdening: Heb. 13:17, watching over the souls of the flock. Also 2 Cor. 11:28. Because of their transforming work: proclaiming God's truth, 2 Cor. 3:18. They are worthy to be supported for their labor, 1 Tim. 5:17-18.
- 5) **Give because of God's Reward:** Matt. 6:19-21, putting our treasure in heaven, not where moths, rust (consuming, worm), or thieves can steal. What did Jesus mean? What we value and hold on to shows our heart. Part of our reward in heaven is for what was lost on earth, Matt. 19:29-30.
- 6) **Give because of God's Glory:** sacred spaces are found throughout Scripture and were a place for worship of God. 1) The Garden of Eden: when Adam sinned, he was evicted and barred. 2) Alters and shrines made outside of Garden of Eden. 3) The Tabernacle, Ex. 26. 4) Solomon's Temple, its carvings, images, and spaces provided a hope of the return to Eden. 5) The church used: The Hall of Tyrannus, Jewish synagogues, Philemon's house, and Aquila and Priscilla's house. After the Edict of Milan by Constantine in AD 313, the church built places of worship.

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7) **Give Because of God's Kingdom**: The final state in Rev. 21:22-27. In two places, V24 &26, the nations bring glory and honor from their lands to New Jerusalem. Honor is the word "timi" which refers to money or value. Is. 60:11-12, massive nationwide giving takes place. Giving will be an eternal act that is done by all in the Final State.

We give because of the Cross of Christ.

Further Discussion and Application

How can we make better use of what God has given us? What can we offer back to Him to bring more glory to Him and contribute to the work of Jesus upon the cross?

God owns everything. What was revealed to us when we listened to this sermon about the things that we still hold too tightly to? What do we need to let go of?

What has God saved you from? Examine your old life and new life? What has God taken from you and what has He given to you in exchange?

What should be the heart attitude towards giving to the Lord from 2 Cor. 9:6-8? Why is a joyful heart indicative of a humble heart towards the Lord? Why would a begrudging heart not be pleasing to the Lord?

Why does what we give now not to be compared to what we will receive when we see heaven? Why is this a comfort to us? Why does this hope sustain us throughout our lives even in the midst of hardship and pain?

Sacred spaces are found throughout Scripture. Why is a gathering place for worship important to God's people and a worthy endeavor to build and provide for?

What was Christ's view of His work on earth and His hope in giving of His life for those He came to save? Phil. 2:5-11, Heb. 12:1-6.