

Lord, Please
Teach Us to Give!

By Frank Jamerson

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Faithful Stewardship...

Introduction

The Bible has more to say about giving than it says about faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and church organization all combined, (Lord, Teach Us To Give, by V.P. Black, p. 18). If we had been talking as much about money for the last hundred years as we have baptism, we would have completely evangelized the world (Rust As A Witness, by V.P. Black, p. 9).

Many of us do not abound in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) because we have not been taught to give. Much of our teaching on the subject is against tithing.

These lesson outlines are brief and are intended only as a guide to further, personal Bible study.

All quotations are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

Lesson 1 Attitudes

- A. We must first give ourselves.
1. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12.
 2. When God told Abraham to give his son (Genesis 22:1-14) it was not Isaac God wanted; it was Abraham!
 3. All acceptable service to God must come from the heart (spirit), Romans 12:1, 2.
- B. We are stewards.
1. Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12; Deuteronomy 8:11, 17-18.
 2. Steward: "primarily denoted the manager of a household or estate...Luke 12:42; 16:1, 3, 8; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Galatians 4:2. It is used metaphorically, in a wider sense, of a steward in general...
 - a) of preachers of the Gospel and teachers of the word of God (1 Corinthians 4:1);
 - b) of elders or bishops in churches (Titus 1:7);
 - c) of believers generally (1 Peter 4:10)" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, W.E. Vine).
 3. We *own* things in the sense of having power or authority over them, Luke 19:33; Acts 27:11. Ultimately, all belongs to God. Even the *power to get wealth* comes from God, Deuteronomy 8:17, 18.
 - a. The one talent man was condemned because he did not use what his master had given him, Matthew 25:14-30.
 - b. The unrighteous steward was condemned because he wasted his master's goods, Luke 16:1, 2.
 4. Romans 14:12 warns that we must give account for our actions.
- C. Examples:
1. The rich man chose to part with Christ rather than part with his money, Mark 10:17-22.
 2. Judas pretended to be against the waste of money, but was really a thief, John 12:3-8.
 3. Ananias and Sapphira lied about how much they gave, Acts 5:1-6.
 4. Barnabas sold and gave, Acts 4:36, 37. Can you imagine him saying, *I am tired of giving?*
 5. The rich man hoarded up for his future *which he did not have* and neglected God and his neighbor, Luke 12:13-21.
 6. The Macedonians gave beyond their power, 2 Corinthians 8:1-12.

Faithful Stewardship...

- D. The reception of any truth depends on one's attitude toward it.
1. The attitude of some is: *I get so tired of hearing about giving; he can't talk about anything but money; it is nobody's business how much (or how little) I give.*
 2. Truthful statements may be: *I am too selfish to give; I am too extravagant with my money to be able to give; I love luxuries more than I love the Lord; or I am keeping my money for pleasure and fun, but if I have anything left over, I will give some of it to the Lord.*
 3. We hope that all will profit by this study of giving. We have done very little teaching on it.

Study Questions

1. Have you ever studied giving in a series of Bible classes?
2. Does the Bible say much about it? ____ What should we learn from that?
3. What did Paul say the Macedonians had first given?
4. What is the source of all acceptable service to God?
5. Define the word *steward* and give some examples.
6. Why was the one talent man condemned?

...for the Christian

7. Why was the unrighteous steward condemned?

8. Why did the rich young ruler go away sorrowfully?

9. Did Ananias and Sapphira have the right to keep part of the money?
___ What was their sin?

10. What mistake did the rich fool make, and how can we avoid it?

11. Out of joy and deep poverty, what attitude did the Macedonians show?

12. Upon what does our reception of truth depend?