

A BIBLICAL TRAVELOGUE OF GIVING

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Godless Greed

Greed is one of the seven deadly sins fueled with sinister selfishness.

Godless greed proclaims:

“What’s mine is mine;
what’s yours is mine!

What I possess I earned
and own! The poor are
poor because they’re
bummers! They deserve
their poverty! Why
should I share with lazy
good-for-nothings!”

The godless greedy,
caught up in themselves, refuse to embrace the
basic Biblical premise: *“God is the Giver and
Owner of all things, including money. It is His will
that we gladly share from what He has given us.”*

Godlike Giving

It is God’s will that we imitate his loving/giving nature by lovingly sharing our material wealth. Our motivation is grounded in John 3:16: *“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* God loved and gave us the best He had to offer, His only Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. His gift of eternal life is full and free for us “unworthy” sinners. When our earthly journey is done and all earthly things are left behind, heaven begins with the fullness of God’s eternal blessings. His love for us is our motivation to love and engage in generous giving. God would have us imitate His generosity even to those “unworthy”. We should be unconditional in our giving. Financially, a tenth (tithe) of our income is a reasonable amount to share with God’s Church, charities, and others with personal needs.

A Homeless Man and a Garbage Can

After making some hospital calls in downtown Cleveland, OH, I stopped in Tower City for supper. I noticed a poorly dressed man rummaging inside a garbage can. He was looking for food. I offered to buy him a meal. He accepted. The fast food places just closed, so I took him to the Hard Rock Café, an upper scale restaurant. He thanked me again and again as he gulped down his meal. I told



him, “Don’t thank me; thank Jesus. He’s the one feeding you today. He gave me the money to spend and the willingness to feed you.” I then shared the Gospel reminding him that, as his meal is a gift from Jesus, so is eternal life. I shared the Gospel message four times before he finally grasped it. What a joy to see his face light up with a smile and hear him say, “God’s really good, ain’t He?” Joe’s name was added to my prayer list.

A Biblical Travelogue of Giving

- > Giving with a willing heart (Exodus 25:2)
- > Giving in overabundance (Exodus 36:2-7)
- > Gifts for the Temple (1 Chron. 29:3-4)
- > Giving back what God has given (1 Chron. 29:14)
- > Giving generously (Psalm 37:21 & 26)
- > Value of sacrifice and offering (Psalm 50:23)
- > Giving out of gratitude (Psalm 54:6-7)
- > Blessings given to generous people (Psalm 112:5)
- > Honoring God with one’s wealth (Prov. 3:9-10)
- > Blessings for those generous (Prov. 22:9)
- > Stealing from God by not giving (Mal. 3:8-10)
- > Giving with a clean heart (Matt. 5:23-24)
- > Private stewardship (Matt. 6:2-4)
- > Earthly & heavenly treasures (Matt. 6: 19-21)
- > Fullest measure of giving (Matt. 23:23)
- > Paying government taxes (Mark 12:13-17)
- > Widow’s small offering is large (Mark 12:41-44)
- > Sharing with others (Luke 3:11)
- > Abundance repays the giver (Luke 6:38)
- > Selling possessions for the poor (Luke 12:33-34)
- > Centurion generously gives to poor (Acts 10:2)
- > Those entrusted should prove faithful (1 Cor. 4:2)
- > Regular & proportionate giving (1 Cor. 16:2)
- > Overflowing joyous generosity even in times of tribulation (2 Cor. 8:1-5)
- > Those who sow generously reap generously (2 Cor. 9:6-7)
- > God rewards generosity (2 Cor. 9:10)
- > Sharing with those who share the Word (Gal. 6:6)

RELATED RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org

Stewardship - Personal Stewardship

“Haphazard vs. Biblical Giving

“Hilarious Giving”

“Sacrificial Giving”

“Tithing? Why Not?”