



# The Discipline of Giving

Disciplined Disciples Series



- Stewardship means thinking of and using your possessions in the light of the fact that God is the ultimate owner of everything and you are His manager. (Psalm 24:1; James 1:17) Generosity is a critical discipline that trains Christ's disciples to steward God's resources better and be more thankful and appreciative of God's blessings.
- Making generosity a spiritual discipline means being intentional and strategic about how you give. Planning to give when the opportunity presents itself isn't the kind of regimen that makes something a discipline. When it comes to generosity as a discipline, regular and intentional giving is key.

A GREAT EXAMPLE! – The  
Macedonians

# SACRIFICIALLY...

- The Macedonians were in the midst of great affliction - 2 Corinthians 8:2
- They were experiencing poverty themselves – 2 Corinthians 8:2
- Yet they gave 'beyond their ability' – 2 Corinthians 8:3a
- This they were not expected to do - cf. 2 Corinthians 8:12-13
- -- The best giving comes from those who cannot afford it (cf. Luke 21:1-4)

# JOYFULLY...

- Somehow they had discovered the joy of giving – 2 Corinthians 8:2
- Perhaps they took to heart the teaching of...
  - The Lord relating to the blessedness of giving - Acts 20:35
  - James to the value of persecution - James 1:2-4
- In any case, this is the kind of giving that God loves - 2 Corinthians 9:7
- -- The best giving comes from those who give cheerfully

# VOLUNTARILY...

- They were 'freely willing' – 2 Corinthians 8:3
- This is the kind of giving God requires today...
  - We can not command people to give against their will - cf. 2 Corinthians 8:8
  - We can only command how it is to be done to help needy saints abroad - cf. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4
- Giving must come from 'a willing mind' – 2 Corinthians 8:12
- Giving must never be done 'begrudgingly' or because you 'have to' – 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Otherwise, you might as well not give at all
- -- The best giving comes from those who give freely

# PERSISTENTLY...

- As Paul says, 'imploring us with much urgency' – 2 Corinthians 8:4
- They wouldn't take 'no' for an answer (or for an easy way out!)
- With the Philippians, their giving to Paul persisted throughout his life - Philippians 4:10-18
- -- The best giving comes from those who persist

# GIVE OF YOURSELF

- Perhaps this explains how they were able to give as they did!
- They gave themselves 'first to the Lord' – 2 Corinthians 8:5
  - When a person does this, they do not worry about 'the cost of giving'
  - For they have the promise of Jesus in Matthew 6:25-34
- Giving themselves first to the Lord, it is natural they would give 'then to us (others)'
  - For such is a mark of true discipleship - cf. John 13:34-35
  - And it is a mark of true love for God - cf. 1 John 4:20-21
- -- The best giving comes from those who give themselves to God



# Having the Right Motives in Giving (Matthew 6:1-4)

- Have you ever given to God with a secret desire to be seen and admired by others? If so, how did you feel afterward? How can you give in secret?

# Questions

1. True or false? The Pharisees actually wanted people to see how generous they were.
2. True or false? The Pharisees were a good example of what Jesus meant in chapter 5, when He said to let your light shine before men.
3. True or false? In the first part of Matthew 6, Jesus continues to teach us how to look around at other people.
4. True or false? Today, no one has the Pharisees' problem of wanting attention for their good deeds.
5. True or false? It is not enough just to have spiritual disciplines; we must also have the same values Jesus has.
6. True or false? Jesus values outer appearances more than the inner character of a person.

# CONFIDENCE IN GIVING

- God will bless the giver – Psalm 41:1-3, Malachi 3:10
- God provides seed for the sower – 2 Corinthians 9:6
  - Sufficiency in all things and abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8-9)
- God multiplies our good for even more good – 2 Corinthians 9:10-11
- God gets the glory through our giving – 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

All things come of thee, O Lord,  
and of thine own have we given  
thee.

Our Thanks-Giving is but a minimal return to God of his greater and supreme gifts he lavishes on us.

Next Lesson: Bible Reading and  
Study