

GIVING TO THE LORD (2)

The apostle Paul reminded the overseers of the church at Ephesus that he had not shunned to declare unto them the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). The Greek word for “shunned” means, “to hold oneself back from doing something, with the implication of some fearful concern - ‘to hold back from, to shrink from, to avoid.’” Thus, Paul was not timid to declare the whole counsel of God.

Since the Apostle to the Gentiles taught all the will of God, then he taught on man’s duty to give. One cannot read for very long in the Bible before he comes across the subject of giving. It is found in the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament. Patriarchs, Jews and Christians, were taught to give. People in all three ages were commended or condemned for their giving or their lack thereof. Even heathen nations sacrificed to their gods. Judah, in her lowest state spiritually, offered her sons and daughters in the fires to the heathen gods. (Jer. 7:31).

Jesus during his personal ministry taught much on giving. In the Sermon on the Mount he said that we are not to give to be seen of men (Matt. 6:1-4). He is not condemning us if others happen to see what we give, but he is condemning us if we are giving because we want others to know what we give. In the same sermon Jesus said,

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:19-21).

Mark records a very interesting incident in the life of Christ:

“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a

certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living” (Mark 12:41-44).

Notice that Jesus sat near the treasury and watched people put money into the treasury. He did not condemn the contributors for doing this publicly. Jesus was interested in what people were giving. He saw then; he sees now. He was interested then; he is interested now. He compared then what various people put into the treasury; he compares now what people put into the treasury. Some who are poor by the world’s standard, are good givers by God’s standard. Some who are wealthy compared to others are stingy skinflints by God’s standard. One might think that if he gives by cash no one will know how much he is giving; but, dear friend, God knows what you are giving, whether by cash or by check.

Some say it is no one’s business but God’s as to how much I give to him. They argue that we should not let the left hand know what the right hand is doing. First, that is an abuse of the passage (Matt. 6:1-4). Jesus was condemning their motive for giving, not the fact that others saw what they gave. If I do wrong when others see what I give, then others do wrong in seeing what I give. Did Jesus do wrong when he observed what others were putting into the treasury? Absolutely not!

Second, the disciples in the early church were selling their lands and houses and laying the money down at the apostles’ feet. The apostles knew what the disciples were giving. Peter, in particular, knew that Ananias and Sapphira had lied about their contribution. They wanted others to think that they had given all the money from the sale of the land to the Lord. Peter, being an apostle, said to Ananias, “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whilst it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it now in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied

unto men, but unto God.” (Acts 5:3-4). Peter knew how much Ananias had given. Ananias was not struck dead because Peter knew the amount that was given, but because Ananias had lied about the amount, having claimed that he gave all the money from the sale of the land. Ananias had been a corpse three hours, when his wife Sapphira came in. Peter asked her, “Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much?” (Acts 5: 7-9). Did Peter have the right to ask that question? If the left hand should not know what the right is doing, then was Peter wrong in asking the question?

Third, elders have the care of the flock. Paul wrote, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” (Heb. 13:17). Can a person lose his soul for penuriousness, that is, stinginess? Who shall be held accountable for that person’s soul? The Bible says that stingy brother will be held accountable, but the elders who oversee that brother also will be held accountable. Now, if elders are going to be held accountable for how a person gives, do they not have a right to know what he gives? Absolutely! To anyone who says otherwise, then I will deny the allegations and charge the alligator. If a brother is overtaken in the fault of covetousness, should the spiritually minded try to restore such in a spirit of meekness (Gal. 6:1)?

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come” (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”
2 Corinthians 9:6

ANNIVERSARY

John and Debra Gragg, 11-16.

BIRTHDAY

Allen Scott, 11-16.

ILL

Sunday: Anne Adams, Lynda Cole, Chris Edwards (AM), Natalie Parish, Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Anne Adams, Lynda Cole, Millie Robertson. Millie Robertson had a pacemaker placed at SMMC on Tuesday and was released on Wednesday.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Steve, Robin, Lindsey and Lauren Brown who expressed their desire to work and worship with Park Street on Sunday, November 5. The Brown's reside at 440 W. Bluebird, Gardner, KS 66030. Phone: 856-8856

OUT OF TOWN

Wednesday: Debra Gragg in Wichita; Joel Nelson in Las Vegas; Monica Nemechek in Los Angeles. The Greer's were in Oak Grove, Missouri last Sunday.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, November 12 following our AM worship.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 51; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 41.

Those To Serve

November 12, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER Gary Cole

PRESIDE..... John Dodson

ASSIST..... Allen Scott

ASSIST..... David Adams

CLOSING PRAYER..... Ken Greer

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeremy Keifer

CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall

LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 15th

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas

INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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