

GRACIOUS GENEROUS GIVING

Money and the Word

Small Groups Winter 2010

INTRODUCTION

This is the last of 6 lessons we have done on Money and the Word. The most important with the biggest blessing has been saved for last. Tonight our subject is giving. Don't spend too long on any of these subheadings as we are going to cover a lot of ground. Here we go!

What is a memorable gift you received? Give glory to God!

Without detailed specifics, what is a memorable gift you gave? Give glory to God!

TITHING GIVES US A PATH TOWARD GIVING

Read **Malachi 3:8-10**. Giving a tenth of our income to the work of the church is a place to begin giving. But, tithing is not where giving ends. It is only the beginning. Now read **Acts 4:32-37**. When the Holy Spirit came after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, what had once been a matter of obedience and reward, now became a matter of lavish love. Give your thoughts on this change.

WHOM CAN WE GIVE TO?

Read **Luke 10:25-37**. We often consider giving gifts to our family or friends (that kind of giving is normal). But the Word speaks in much broader terms than just those close to us. Our "neighbor" could be *anyone* whom we come in contact with. What are real life examples of how we could give financially to our "neighbor" today? (i.e. Do your neighbors have jobs? Is the lady at the check-out in front of you searching for coins to pay? Is there someone who you have a disagreement with and yet needs financial help?)

GIVE SECRETLY AND CHEERFULLY

Read **Matthew 6:1-4** and **II Corinthians 9:7**. Why give in secret? Why is there such a temptation for us to broadcast our giving?

When you desire to give a gift, ask yourself these questions: *What is my motive? Am I seeking honor from man? Is my giving in obedience to God? Is my giving with a cheerful heart?*

Children love to give. Give practical ideas on how you can teach your children to give secretly and cheerfully.

OUR GIVING AT A COST

Read **2 Samuel 24:18-25** and **Mark 12:41-44**. These passages teach us to give meaningfully. We should not give the Lord something that has cost us nothing.

How does charitable giving often reflect our selfishness when we give our “cast-offs”?

If we have a surplus, how can we give so that it is at a true cost to us?

When we give at a cost, we must have faith to know that God will still take care of us in our time of need.

THE PROPER ORDER IN GIVING

Read **Luke 20:19-26** and **Matthew 5:23-24**. If we owe someone, or we owe taxes, we must first pay what we owe, then give to God. God does not want what belongs to someone else. If you are considering giving a gift, first consider what you owe.

Why do you think that God cares about our personal affairs before we give to Him?

A FINAL WORD FROM THE LORD AS WE CLOSE OUR STUDY ON MONEY

Read **1 Timothy 6:3-11**. Soak these verses in as we close and answer these questions later alone with God.

When we are given more than what we need, could it be a **test**? Will we first consider our own needs or wants, or will we consider others before ourselves? Will we use it as a down payment for something we have desired, or will we use it to pay off the debt we already have? Will we see it as an opportunity to show men how giving we are, or will we humbly give according to what God desires and for His glory?

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

Here is the schedule for the rest of the 2009/2010 Small Group season.
We will meet March 15-16, 22-23, 29-30; April 19-20, 26-27, May 3-4, 10-11

SPEND TIME IN PRAYER