

Living Extravagantly

Mark 12: 41-44 (NASB) “And He sat down opposite the treasury, and *began* observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”



There are a lot of approaches to giving:

- Guilt
- Pressure
- Manipulation
- Coercion

2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV) “Just as you excel in everything else, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

First: Giving allows me to EXPRESS APPRECIATION for past blessings.

2 Corinthians 9:7 & 12 (NIV) “Each Man is to give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. ... This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but it's also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB) “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:8 (NIV) “For I'm not commanding you. But I want you to test the sincerity of your love.”

Second: Giving allows me to EXAMINE my MOTIVATION in the present.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 (NASB) “You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year. ... The tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your hard and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

Matthew 6:33 (NASB) “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NIV) “They did not do as we expected but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.”

Third: Giving allows me to ENLARGE my EXPECTATIONS of the future.

On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most important – how important is money to you? (Now be honest with yourself)

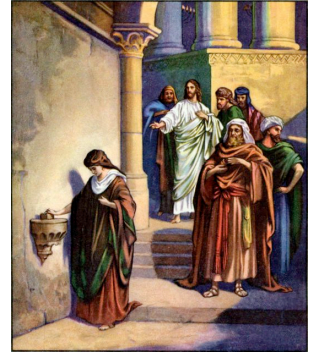
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Proverbs 19:17 (NASB) “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.”

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Malachi 3:10 (NASB) “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

Luke 6:38 (NASB) “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, it will be poured into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”



Three Characteristics of Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV) “Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

1. It ought to be **REGULAR**. “On the first day of every week”
2. It ought to be **PLANNED**. “Set aside a sum of money”
3. It ought to be **PROPORTIONAL**. “In keeping with his income”

Deuteronomy 16:17 (NASB) “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”

Application

If your giving is a measure of your gratitude and appreciation for what God has done for you how grateful are you?

_ Not very _ so-so _ very

What motivates your giving at the present time?

- My giving is can be compared to tipping.
- I give because I’ll get something.
- I give because I feel pressured
- I give because I love and worship God
- Other

Do you expect your giving to be used by God to multiply the impact of the kingdom of God?

Do you give that men might come to faith in Christ?

Are you giving all God desires you to give?

What do you need to do to honor God in your giving?

Memory Verse: Luke 6:38 (NASB) “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, it will be poured into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”