

# WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

## The Important Little Things Jesus Said About Giving

INTRODUCTION: The last three Sunday mornings, I have tried to focus on what I believe are the three key passages that Jesus spoke to give us an understanding of what the Master says about our stewardship and giving.

But Jesus said many other things, and everything He says is important. So tonight I am taking a number of the other things and have tried to give them a little organization to help us consider them.

### I. THE WAYS TO GIVE

#### A. Giving is not a substitute for holy living.

Matthew 5:23–24 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First **be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**

#### B. Don't vet the recipients of your gifts too carefully.

Matthew 5:42 **Give to him who asks you,** and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

Luke 6:30 **Give to everyone who asks of you.** And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back.

Luke 6:34–35 34 And if you lend to *those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and **lend, hoping for nothing in return;** and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

#### C. Give privately.

Matthew 6:2–4 2 Therefore, **when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet** before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

#### D. Give freely

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**

### II. HOW GIVING IMPACTS THE REST OF LIFE

**A. Giving is a test of Lordship.**

Matthew 19:16–22 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” 18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “*You shall not murder,*’ *You shall not commit adultery,*’ *You shall not steal,*’ *You shall not bear false witness,*’ 19 *Honor your father and your mother,*’ and, *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” 20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”

**B. A focus on material things gives a wrong focus to life.**

Luke 12:13–15 13 Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” 15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

**C. God says that living to obtain the comfortable life is foolish.**

Luke 12:16–21 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

**III. THE BIG QUESTION**

Mark 8:36 For **what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**