

Sermon Series Begins: *Why Do We Do That?*

5/26/24 "Give My Money," Luke 11:37-42, NLT

INTRODUCTION: What do you think of when you hear the word *give*? Money? Giving is a much larger topic. The Pharisees thought that they were giving to God—trying to earn His approval—by washing their hands. (pouring water so that their hands were rinsed at least to their wrists "to remove moral pollution allegedly acquired by contact with sinners." SFLB)

What does God give? life, Jesus, salvation, Holy Spirit, promises, an eternal inheritance, family, acceptance, forgiveness, homes...

Matthew 5:48, CEV: But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

MAIN IDEA: Let us be givers like God. How? Here are 2 things to do.

I. First, clean our insides—our hearts (37-41)

A. stop focusing on the external: appearance, performance

Proverbs 16:2, NLT: People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.

PRIDE 1. what we & others *do*... I'm doing all "this" for God

PRIDE 2. how well we & others do "it"... that's not how I would

B. go out of our way to follow Jesus' example of giving
(serve at church in the nursery, with children; come to an evening bible study, a life group; do something good for someone else that we don't really want to do)

EX: giving alms to the poor privately would have been challenging for the pharisees, who did things for public applause

1. take note of sinful attitudes that come up within us,
(pride, fear, jealousy, bitterness)
2. deal with it: confess, ask forgiveness for, repent,
renounce (if it keeps coming back)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, focus on what's important (42)

A. do the disciplines

NOTE: Jesus doesn't command us to tithe, but he says not to stop doing it—just don't let that be where our giving ends. (SFLB note)

1. tithe (Malachi 3:10), attend church (Heb. 10:25),
study Bible (2Tim. 3:16-17), serve... (Gal. 5:13
14), worship (Rev. 14:7), pray (1Thess. 5:17)
2. we cannot become so focused on these that we
neglect the most important things

B. do the important things

1. justice: not "get justice," but be just, **merciful**,
giving grace where appropriate, standing up for the
oppressed & downtrodden

EX:

2. walk in the love of God... patience with people,
kindness, seeking to build others up & not promote
ourselves, not irritable, forgiving, loving &
supporting what is good, enduring, hopeful
(1Cor 13:4-7, NLT)

1Peter 4:8, AMP: Above all, have fervent *and* unfeeling love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins [it overlooks unkindness and unselfishly seeks the best for others].

APPLICATION: Important aspects of giving....We give

- Without expectation of return
- Without expectation of applause
- Without expectation of thanks

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

While God does care about what we do, He cares most about our hearts. Our actions come from our hearts, which are deceitful.

Acts 20:35, NLT: You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ALTAR: hands: recognize you've focused on external? come if want prayer for sin in your heart