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Daily:

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THE GIFT OF GIVING

There is good reason to believe that humans are “hardwired” for lives characterised by giving. We live with a strong sense and are even expected to live in the realm of giving. We give ourselves to development and growth. We give ourselves to education and work. We give ourselves to worthy causes. We give ourselves to intimate relationship. We give ourselves to family and friends. This sense and expectation of living “giving lives” is reinforced by society. To live in the realm of giving is society’s explicit message; the marketing and advertising industries willingly tap into this sense and expectation of living “giving lives”. Yet within this embracing of living lives in the realm of giving, economic concepts and

modes of thought begin to creep in and quietly influence and modify the realm of giving. Because of this, we find ourselves talking about giving and receiving; we speak about givers and takers and soon we are not able to think of giving without considering how that giving will benefit us. While this giving for self-gain is widely practiced, it is not openly owned. It is not expressly publicised or explicitly stated. It remains the silent and unspoken agenda behind so much of society’s giving. It begins to poison society. It stands to reason that while society’s unspoken practice is to give to self-benefit, it separates the intimate link between human society and the kingdom of God; between people and God; between the God who gives and the people who are made in the image of God to give. This divorce allows society to define giving in its own way without interference from God and His kingdom. **Over the month of October, we explore giving as God’s gift to humans and to society at large. May we be people who are known for giving the gift of our time, talent and treasure.**

WEEK 1: 2 OCT THE GOD WHO GIVES – Rev Kamogelo

Giving is God’s idea - God the Creator, God the Redeemer and Lord, God the Helper and Counsellor defines giving.

WEEK 2: 9 OCT ADDRESSING MONEY AS A RIVAL GOD – Khanyiso Njwabule

Money makes godly claims but only disappoints is a God rival.

WEEK 3: 16 OCT GIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD (PART 1): SACRIFICIALLY, REGULARLY/FREELY AND GENEROUSLY – Rev Gavin

As God gives, so too do we – sacrificially, freely and generously.

WEEK 4: 23 OCT GIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD (PART 2): GRATEFULLY AND OBEDIENTLY –Tony Matthee

Giving as a response of thanksgiving and obedience.

WEEK 5: 30 OCT A CHURCH KNOWN FOR ITS GIVING – Rev Boitumelo

As God is known as a Great Giver, so too should the church be known as such.

WEEK 3: 16 OCT

GIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD (PART 1): SACRIFICIALLY, REGULARLY/FREELY AND GENEROUSLY

As God gives, so too do we – sacrificially, freely and generously

BIBLE READINGS

Proverbs 4:11:24-28
Matthew 10:5-10
I Timothy 6:6-10,17-19
I Cor 16:2
II Cor 9:6-8



WORSHIP SONG:



Amazing Love by Graham Kendrick <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP28sP66Uws>

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION WRITTEN BY:

Rev Gavin Landers

Imagine for a moment if Jesus refused to give of himself freely and generously. Imagine Jesus embracing the following, “In this world it is better to receive than to give, in this world it is not necessary to give of yourself for the good of others and for the benefit of others.” Imagine Jesus saying, “In this world sacrificial giving is only for the stupid and the uninformed.” Imagine Jesus saying, “Give only when asked or in circumstances when others compel you to give” or “give only when others are watching you”. Imagine Jesus witnessing to the idea that one needs to determine your minimum offer for any circumstance and then act on that. Would that leave you and me better off than we are with a Christ who gave himself freely and generously for the good and benefit of others to the point of giving his very life as a sacrifice that you and I may find eternal life? We are told in II Cor 8:9 that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was shown in that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Why is it then that amongst those who claim to follow Christ, and even in our own Christ following, large tracts of our lives are lived under the illusion that a regular and generous giving of ourselves so that others may benefit from our wealth is optional and is really left to our own discretion? Why is it that we secure our own financial wealth and then from that make decisions about financial assistance for others?

Paul in II Cor 8 offers us the example of giving by the churches in Macedonia who were covered by God’s grace. He says, “In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you - see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 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. And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the

THE GIFT OF GIVING

desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little" (II Cor 8:1-15).

How our world needs Christ followers who are like those of the churches of Macedonia; followers who, having given themselves unreservedly to God, seek no alternative but to give spontaneously and, out of their own initiative, catch the world completely off guard in an outpouring of free, generous and sacrificial giving. May it be so.

Life Application

This week consciously share with others that of which you have plenty, but also and most importantly, give sacrificially.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Give an account from your life story of how Jesus' free, generous, and sacrificial gift made you rich?
2. What tempts you to second-guess living a life characterised by free, generous, and sacrificial giving?
3. What verse in II Corinthians 8:1-15 resonates most with you?
4. Is there something that you feel God is asking you to either stop doing or start doing as a result of hearing God's word?



DAILY MEMORY VERSE AND PRAYER

DAY	VERSE	PRAYER
MONDAY	"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." (Proverbs 11:24)	Father, teach me to live with open hands. Amen
TUESDAY	"Freely you have received; freely give." (Matthew 10:8)	Father, guide me in your ways of giving. Amen
WEDNESDAY	"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." (I Timothy 6:17)	Father, may I be found always acknowledging and relying upon your gift into my life rather than relying on my own efforts which fuel my ego. Amen
THURSDAY	"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:25)	Father, give me a heart that is touched by the plight of others. Amen
FRIDAY	"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:6)	Lord, make me like you – a generous giver! Amen
SATURDAY	"Command those who are rich to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." (I Timothy 6:18)	Help me realize Father that I'm never too poor to offer nothing. Amen.



BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
jennyb@bmc.org.za

SCRIPTURE: [1 TIMOTHY 6:1-10](#)

- **What makes you happy?**

Maybe it's your tuck money, or your upcoming holidays or a new book or game? These things are blessings we have received. And we should be happy about them.

- **But do these things really make you happy?**

Can you still be happy without them? Or are you always wanting more, thinking that if you could just have a few more books, a few more clothes or some new games you would be truly happy.

The gospel is not about money or how earthly things can make you happy. That is why we are warned that we shouldn't be focusing on money or earthly things to make us happy. Contentment or being happy can only come when we focus on godliness. To focus on godliness means to focus on the blessings of God's love and grace and forgiveness.

This doesn't mean that you are not allowed to enjoy the money or the earthly blessings (toys, clothes, books, games, sweets etc) that the Lord has given you.

- **Read verse 10.**

It doesn't say that money is the root of all evil, but that the **love** of money is the root of all evil. The Bible says you are a fool if you think that having lots of money can make you happy. True happiness comes from learning more about the Lord, singing praises to him, reading the Bible and thanking God for his love for you. That's what can really make you happy.