

Generosity in Giving
Matthew 6:1-4



Generosity in Giving

- **Proverbs 11:24-26** - One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
²⁵ Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.
²⁶ The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.
- **Proverbs 14:21** - Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

God Always Provided for People and Creation

- **Genesis 1:28-31** - And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Giving – Following Jesus

- **Matthew 6:1-4** - “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

God's Commands For Giving/Providing In the Old Testament

- **Leviticus 23:22** - “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”
- **Deuteronomy 14:28-29** - At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

God's Commands For Giving/Providing In the Old Testament

- **Deuteronomy 15:7-11** - “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, ⁸ but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. ⁹ Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, ‘The seventh year, the year of release is near,’ and your eye look grudgingly^[a] on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the Lord against you, and you be guilty of sin. ¹⁰ You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. ¹¹ For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

God's Commands For Giving/Providing New Testament

- **Acts 20:35** - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** - The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- **James 2:14-17** - What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Giving in Secret

- **Matthew 6:3-4** - But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Giving in Secret

- (1) It assures purity of motive in the heart of the giver by removing the temptation to hypocrisy.
- (2) It protects and honors the privacy of the recipient, a privacy that is indispensable to his recovery and rehabilitation.
- (3) It protects the benefactor from a proliferation of calls upon his generosity.
- (4) It provides a noble basis for the development of true love and friendship between the helper and the person helped.
- (5) It honors this specific commandment of Christ; and, to the Christian, this is the most important of all.

Why Does God Provide for
Sinners and Evil Nations?

God's Love for All People

- **Lamentations 3:22-23** - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- **1 Timothy 2:1-4** - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- **2 Peter 3:8-9** - But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Legacy/Testimonial Giving

- **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** - Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.
- **Acts 4:33-35** - And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.