

THE LAST (FORGOTTEN) BEATITUDE

Text: Acts 20:26-38

Key verse: Acts 20:35: "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Rudyard Kipling said, "I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew); their names are What and Why and When and How and Where and Who." Allow me to use these six men to help me get this most important message over.

I. WHY DO WE GIVE?

A. To show appreciation

Hebrews 7:1-4. The great patriarch Abraham gave one tenth of all he had to Melchisedec, whom many Bible scholars believe to be none other than the Pre-incarnate Christ.

Luke 11:41-43. Jesus declares tithing as something that ought to be done.

B. To declare the tithe is God's

Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:28; Proverbs 3:9

C. To acknowledge ownership

Luke 12:15-23. Notice how many times the word "my" appears in these verses.

Psalms 24:1: "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." The Devil doesn't own one square foot of earth. In II Corinthians 4:4 Satan is called the "god of this world." The word "world" has been translated from the Greek word, "aion" which means age or period. In other words, during this age he causes havoc in this world, but he doesn't own the terra firma.

Psalms 50:10-12

Haggai 2:8: "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

James 1:17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

D. To place God's wealth into circulation

"A bell is not a bell until you ring it,

A song is not a song until you sing it,

Love is not love until you give it away,

Wealth is not wealth until you give it away.”

Malachi 3:6-10

Ecclesiastes 5:13,14

Too often people live with the philosophy:

Get all you can,

Can all you get,

Sit on the lid,

And poison the rest.

II. WHO GIVES?

I Corinthians 16:2

II Corinthians 9:7, “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Mark 12:41-44

Luke 21:4, “For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.”

Mark 14:8, “She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.”

We, the people of God, give and we give what we can.

III. HOW DO WE GIVE?

A. With Abandonment

Matthew 6:1-4

B. With Cheerfulness

II Corinthians 9:7: “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” The Greek word “hilaros” is the word we translate “cheerful.” It is also the root word for our English word “hilarious!”

C. By Faith

II Corinthians 8:1-9

II Corinthians 8:3: “For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves.”

II Corinthians 8:7: “Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”

IV. WHERE DO WE GIVE?

Acts 8:1: "...the church which was at Jerusalem..."

Acts 13:1: "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch..."

Romans 16:5: "Likewise greet the church that is in their house."

I Corinthians 1:2: "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth..."

Colossians 4:16: "...in the church of the Laodiceans."

I Thessalonians 1:1: "...unto the church of the Thessalonians."

Rev. 2:1: Church of Ephesus; 2:8: Church in Smyrna; 2:12: Church in Pergamos; 2:18: Church in Thyatira; 3:1: Church in Sardis; 3:7: Church in Philadelphia and 3:14: Church of the Laodoceans. All of the churches listed in The Revelation are local and visible.

I Timothy 3:15: "...in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Acts 20:28: "...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

V. WHEN DO WE GIVE?

I Corinthians 16:2: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

VI. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE GIVE?

Proverbs 3:9, 10: "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Proverbs 11:24: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

II Corinthians 9:6: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

Malachi 3:11, 12: "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."

Luke 18:28-30

Conclusion:

Rom. 8:32: “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

If Christ went to the cross for us, would He not do whatever we need Him to do?

II Corinthians 8:9 “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.