

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 83

“42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” (Matthew 5:42 KJV) In this Scripture Jesus describes things in link to money and material things in pertain to the relationship of the disciples and the followers of Jesus to the people who are around them.

“Give to him that asketh thee”, Christ advised to give to those who asked. To fulfill that we need to observe certain points:

Find out from the people who are asking you what are the things they are in need of. Many who are coming to ask, whether they are family, relatives, colleagues, neighbors, etc., they are not in need, but they are in want. Or they can manage with other way, but they are just taking advantage of you. But as well as there are also many who are in need and you need to move promptly to help them.

In the ministry that Jesus was doing he was helping the poor people. We can read in John that it was usual for Jesus, who was keeping the bag of the money with Judas, to instruct him to give to the poor people as we read here as Jesus spoke to Judas, ***“28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. 29 For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.” (John 13:28-29 KJV)*** So here we learn also as a church that money need to be collected and kept aside when the need will be raised then Jesus will direct us of what we need to give to the poor people. In our church, from all what we collect we have five percent allocated to the poor to those who ask and those who express their needs and for those whom we recognize that they are in need then we give. ***It is a better way that the money to be collected in the church and Christ will direct us through the Holy Spirit work to whom we need to give.***

Some they would ask and that is a usual question; if they can give their tithes to the poor? No, you cannot do that, you need to bring your tithes to the Lord into the storehouse, that is in His church, as we read in ***Malachi 3***, ***“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10 KJV)*** * After you bring your tithes, we as church had set aside some of it to the poor, so in such manner you are obedient to the command of God in giving your tithes, and you are obeying the command of God in giving to the poor. * There might be poor around you, and you may think that they need to be helped, in such a situation you may give them a little support but not from your tithes, or you may open up their situation to the church and we may look and see if they are in need to be helped. * You can also give to the fund of alms that is in the church, in addition to your tithes.

What we are called to help is to help them in their food and in their dress and their basic life things, as we read here: ***“15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (James 2:15-16 KJV)*** Apostle James clearly here defined the need in food and

in dress which are essential for life. We can read the same in ***1 John***: ***“17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18 KJV)*** See here we are not called to help people in other needs like building house, sending children to colleges, aiding expenses of migration, starting business, etc.

Giving alms to the poor what is understood with is that it will not to be paid back.

Therefore, for the reason of giving alms certain amount of saving needed to be kept aside so when the need is raised we may move to help and to give relief.

“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9 KJV) We give alms to help the poor because we love God and we love our neighbors. Jesus recommends us to give alms and to help those in need. He promised us a reward from God the Father when we do it out of a good heart. It says here, ***“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed;”*** that the person who has a bountiful eye that comes from a bountiful heart will be blessed because he gives his bread to the poor. ***Therefore, we need to save, so that we can share with the poor and further be blessed. If we are poor, then we cannot share and we will not be a blessing either to ourselves or to others. Here also speaks about giving bread that the basic needs of food and other essential things need to be met.***

How we give our alms to the poor? Let us read what Jesus said: ***“1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:1-4 KJV)*** We give alms in secret, whether food or clothes or other needs, without announcing and telling others about it.

****It is not shameful to be poor, but it is shameful and sinful if we don't know how to come out from poverty, manage our lives according to God's will, and learn to save and make wealth according to Scriptural principles. * Therefore, in our endeavor to help the poor, we need to teach them how to ultimately come out of poverty and start to help others.***

“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.” (Proverbs 3:27 KJV) That which is given to the poor is their due. When they deserve and we have then we need to give them their food and clothes. This means that we need to examine the situation and decide about what to give.

“He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.” (Psalm 112:9 KJV) The giving of alms is righteousness; therefore it is the duty which all the disciples of Christ, according to their ability, must abound in.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27 KJV) It is true that our alms would not make us deserve to go to Heaven, but it is true that we cannot go to Heaven without them. It is pure religion, notice that we spoke clearly before about which widows we need to help, and in brief those above 60, have no children to help them, and those who are living holy life. About orphans who lost their parents, better to adopt the orphan and care for him in your family, because orphans need food, dress, and home atmosphere.

What good alms further can do to us?

A. Reward us more with material things: *“24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” (Proverbs 11:24-25 KJV)* *“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.” (Proverbs 19:17 KJV)* As we give to the poor and needy, the Lord shall give us more, as we refresh others God shall refresh us, and as we water others the Lord shall also water us.

B. Security from lack and want: *“He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.” (Proverbs 28:27 KJV)* The righteous who give, his children will have plenty. *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” (Psalm 37:25 KJV)* The righteous who give, his children will not go through poverty.

C. Relief from distress: *“1 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.” (Psalm 41:1-2 KJV)* As we relief the poor, the Lord shall relief us in times of trouble and distress.

D. Honour and a good name: *“He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.” (Psalm 112:9 KJV)* Honor and good name we will be receiving from the Lord.

E. Reward in Heaven and recompensation in the resurrection of the just with eternal riches, *“13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:13-14 KJV)* The Lord shall reward us in Heaven for the help we give to the poor.

If you cannot evaluate the situation then might be you are not obliged to give. What usually we do and what we suggest to you, when you help, if possible you give food and dress and avoid giving cash money so you will be sure that your money is spent on essential things; food and dress.

In addition to giving food and clothes, certain times we may move to relief some brethren or the people around us as the Holy Spirit lead us from other emergencies in their lives.

It is better for the situation to be evaluated by the church before any individual will move to help according to his own initiative, especially when big amount is about to be moved.

The value of the church being involved and aware about the requests is because some will come with fabricated stories and will use some members of the church to extort money from them. They will come with a cook stories and wrong motives, and approach those who are well known with their kind heart and cheerful giving. The devil also may use Scriptures, for example of what Jesus said, *“Give to him that asketh thee”*, in order to extort money from the church and from the brethren.

In general what I am advising for all the members before you move money, the more if it is a big amount, come and open up the issue and ask advice and counsel to avoid troubles in your life later on in the future. If you don't want to come and open to the church, then yourself will bear the hurt and not the church.

Jesus said, *“Give to him that asketh thee”*. Now what are the things that we may need to give to those who ask us?

- We can pray for the people and intercede on their behalf and ask the Lord to reveal Himself to them and satisfy their needs.
- We can share with them the message of Salvation, that Jesus had died for their sins on the cross to give them eternal life.
- We can advise them and instruct them from the Word of God and the will of God so their problems would be solved and that they would have the right direction in their lives.
- We can advice them how to come out from poverty and wants by teaching them the Word of God and the right way to handle their finances.
- We can share with them material things that they need like food, dress, lodging, transport, finances, medical aid, medicine, and offer medical advices.

If we recall the story of the widow that she came to Elisha he advised her of what she needed to do to solve her problem. Elisha did not give her cash money as we discussed that story before, *“1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.” (2 Kings 4:1-7 KJV)* Elisha inquired from her all the story and he also asked her of what she need, but finally he gave here advices with a plan to solve her problem and come out from poverty, but he did not give any money or material thing.

My dear and beloved: Let us satisfy today with this amount of teaching, and we will continue in the next message. Let us come now to the Lord and let us commit our lives to continue to apply what we learned in our lives and in our ministry, asking Him to lead us to give what is due for Him in giving to the poor and needy.

Let us commit ourselves to manage our finances well as we work to earn, tithe our income, spend wisely and save for the future, and keep some to help the poor. Let us commit ourselves to extend helpful hands to the poor around us and especially to our brethren who are in need.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for reminding me to have concern of how to manage my finances well and to help the poor and the needy who are around me.*

Confess and renounce your sins; your poor stewardship and budgeting, mismanagement of your finances, lack of tithing your income, and your lack of concern toward the poor. Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to apply what I learned in the message of today. Lord this is my decision that I am committing myself to do _____.

Lord I commit myself to help the following poor people _____, and to teach them how to come out from poverty.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who responded to your Word and complied to do and live according to your will. Lord protect them and give them wisdom and discernment how to apply the message in their lives and ministry. .

Lord bless us as a church and lead us always to extend our helping hands to the poor and needy, to the orphans, the widows, the sick, the crippled, and the rest of those under privilege. Lord open our eyes to see and give us wisdom and discernment how to do the ministry towards the poor and needy. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and made new disciples and train more workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 83. Matthew 5:42. John 13:28-29. Malachi 3:10. James 2:15-16. 1 John 3:17-18. Proverbs 22:9. Matthew 6:1-4. Proverbs 3:27. James 1:27. Proverbs 11:24-25. Proverbs 19:17. Proverbs 28:27. Psalm 37:25. Psalm 41:1-2. Psalm 112:9. Luke 14:13-14. 2 Kings 4:1-7.

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