

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 84

“42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” (Matthew 5:42 KJV) We will continue in this message to speak about giving from what Jesus said, **“Give to him that asketh thee”**.

Some time we may need to help other congregations of the church when the need is raised up. The disciples at Antioch they moved to help the Brethren in Jerusalem after they heard the prophecy about the coming famine as we read here, **“27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.” (Acts 11:27-30 KJV)** The relief is sent here to the brethren in Judaea; most likely because they will be affected most, due to the boycotting that the Jewish were making against them in order to hinder the gospel from being preached. **Therefore, we are called to help those who are persecuted for the sake of the gospel.** We learned from this Scripture that relief had been sent from a group of a brethren to support the need. **So the burden is better to be carried by a group or by the whole church rather than by one person alone.**

Our initiative as church is to keep 5% of the church collection to be moved to the alms that will aim to help the brethren affected by scarcity of resources.

There are more Scriptures in the new Testament, that Apostle Paul wrote to some churches to collect and to keep aside to help the brethren who are in need as we can read here:

1. “24 Whosoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company. 25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. 26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. 27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things. 28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.” (Romans 15:24-28 KJV) Here Paul was speaking about the contribution of the brethren in Macedonia and Achaia to the poor saints in Jerusalem. Those churches were supported by the teaching that came from the apostles in Jerusalem and now their turn to minister to the apostles in material things.

2. “1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 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. 3 And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.” (1 Corinthians 16:1-4 KJV) Here Paul gave instructions to the Galatians and the Corinthians churches to collect weekly and prepare the money to be

sent to support the saints in Jerusalem who were in need. It was the debts of the Gentile churches toward the saints in Jerusalem who through them those churches planted and now they are paying them back to what they sow in them from spiritual seeds.

3. “1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-4 KJV) Paul here commended the churches in Macedonia for their love in giving; even they were having less, but were willing to support the poor saints in Jerusalem who were persecuted and who contributed much in the plantations of all those churches. The Church in Jerusalem was the mother church and now when that church was in need because of persecution the other churches who were planted by that church got responded to the call to collect for the saints and send them support so they can continue to preach the gospel and to reach out and motivate new people.

4. “1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: 2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. 3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: 4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.” (2 Corinthians 9:1-4 KJV) Here apostle Paul was using the good example of the brethren in Macedonia to mobilize the Corinthians brethren to do the same, especially here Paul told them that he had said good things to the Macedonians about the Corinthians and how they were ready for such, so now if the Macedonian brethren will come with him to the church in Corinth and found them not ready, then Paul and his companions will be put to shame. **So let us continue to endeavour to give to the poor and needy.**

We can read further in the Scriptures about how we can minister to those who are in need. There was a widow that God sent Elijah to her and how he ministered unto her, as we read here: **“8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by**

Elijah. 17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” (1 Kings 17:8-24 KJV) Here Elijah was sent to that widow to be fed in her house. We will learn in this story how we can handle peoples and direct them with what God leading us to do to them. From this real story we can conclude the following lessons:

1. Meeting people and coming to know their lives is an opportunity for ministry and opportunity for us to minister to them: “8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.” (1 Kings 17:8-9 KJV) God sent Elijah to that widow because of the famine, and the will of God it was that the widow would feed the man of God. Jesus confirmed that in the New Testament; that Elijah was sent to that widow who was of the Gentiles, “25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; 26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.” (Luke 4:25-26 KJV)

2. Obedience to God’s voice open to us opportunities to serve and to bear fruit: “10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” (1 Kings 17:10 KJV) Elijah obeyed God and went and was able to meet the widow that God sent him to her.

3. Be humble and do not depend on your own understanding: Elijah being a man did not reject the offer of God that a widow woman would feed him. Elijah did not depend on His own understanding about how to live his life and about how to serve God.

4. Giving God’s Word and educate the people with God’s will is the prime of what the people need in their lives: “11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.” (1 Kings 17:11-13 KJV) Elijah was keen to give this woman the Word of God that God had sent him to tell to her. Now this widow was in need, and she might be expecting that Elijah would pay her and give her

something for the water that she will give to him, but here Elijah asked her to give him food, and to whom she replied that she did not have enough for herself and she even told him that she and her son will be going to die for the lack of food in their house. But Elijah still insisted on her to give to him first as God had spoken. Now to link this story with what Jesus said, “**Give to him that asketh thee**”; **true we need to give to the people who are in need, we may give them food and other needs as they request, but we still need to evaluate them further and in addition we still need to tell them what God would expect from them to give back to Him and to His church. * I meet several people who are in need, and I do all what God wants me to do for them, as well as I teach them what they need to give back to God as He is blessing them so that His blessings will flow in their lives.**

This widow at least she has a meal but Elijah has no meal at all. What I want to say that many time people they think that they don’t have, but they are not aware that they are far better than many others. Our responsibilities as a church we need to give them God’s Word and educate them with His will.

5. Poor people should not remain poor (This is my famous saying) that is why we need to teach them: “14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. 16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:14-16 KJV) The plan and the promise of God for that widow is that she will always have enough in her house for her and for her family. Elijah explained to her that after she will obey God and give to him, the food in her house will not cease. When she obeyed truly God fulfilled His Word and plenty was there in her house.

*** One of the teaching that I teach all those whom I come to contact with and disciple is the teaching of giving to God, starting from giving their hearts, giving their lives, giving their time, resources, then their tithes, their various offerings and vows, and then to give their firstfruits. * Now when I meet people in need and those who are poor, the more I teach them about giving to God, especially their tithes, because that will open the windows of Heaven on them, the devour (fines, penalties, accidents, sicknesses, etc) will be rebuked and people around them will see that they are blessed by the Lord as He promised, “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. 11 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. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10-12 KJV)** **Poor should not remain poor and the way to achieve that is by their obedience to God. When I am asked by poor people to give them help, I give to them what they need and I teach them to give what is due to God. Good number of them they respond, and they are no more in need, and are well provided by the Lord as that widow, but few are not willing, and I found them still stumbling every now and then with financial troubles.**

To tell you the truth, it is next to the impossible to work with people who are not willing to give to God; they will be always in need and they will be always in troubles.

Poor people should not remain poor and this will be accomplished first by teaching them about giving and to be firm with them as Elijah was firm with the widow when he told her, ***“but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.” (1 Kings 17:13 KJV)*** ***We need to start to teach the people from the first day we meet them.*** That widow was a believer in God and the prove of that is what she said to Elijah, ***“As the LORD thy God liveth,” (1 Kings 17:12 KJV)*** ***So once the people express their faith in God, we need to teach them to give what is due to the Lord so that poverty will leave them.***

6. Further teachings and follow up is needed: ***“17 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?” (1 Kings 17:17-18 KJV)*** Here the woman had sin in her life that she did in the past, and in the course of time that Elijah was living with her most likely she came to know about holiness and the sins that she did in her life. Sin lead to death; and now she was realizing that sin brought the judgment of God and that caused her son to die.

7. Praying and trusting God for a miracle is that what we need while we are serving the Lord: ***“19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. 24 And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” (1 Kings 17:19-24 KJV)*** **** God should prove us and prove His Word to the people that we are ministering to as He did here with this widow as she said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth”. * We may be put in such embarrassing situation that people who start to obey God and we are blessed with them they might pass through hard time, but we need to trust God and persevere in doing our service and continue to minister to the people with the power of the Holy Spirit and through prayers. God sure will help us and support us, and He will prove His Word on His perfect time and in the method He chose. Imagine that God put to death the son of that widow to whom God sent Elijah to stay in her house and to be fed by her. It is so embarrassing, and God may put us in such situations, therefore, the more we need to trust God for a miracle.***

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to the Lord in prayer and let us heed the Word of Jesus and obey His instruction and apply them in our lives and in the lives of the people that we are reaching out through our ministry.

Let us continue to be willing to help those who are poor and needy. Let us be willing to help other congregations of the church that are in need and the saints who are under persecution. Let us be willing to continue to give to God's church.

Let us trust God and obey His Word and not to trust or depend on our own understanding. Therefore, let us commit ourselves to teach the people that we are reaching out and even the poor among them about giving.

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 your Word that taught me clearly how important is the giving and how people will be blessed if they will start to give to you and the importance of teaching them about giving.*

Confess and renounce your sins; renounce your pride and relying on your own understanding, renounce your non willingness to give to God's church and to the poor, renounce your non willingness to teach the poor about giving. Lord forgive me, I confess and renounce 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 help and support the following congregations _____.

Lord I commit myself to teach the following poor people about giving _____, so they will come out from their 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 lead them to move to people, especially among the poor who need your Word and their help. Lord protect them, provide all their needs, 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 to help those congregations who are in need and the saints who are persecuted. Lord guide us to reach the people that you are sending us to them and give us wisdom how to speak your Word and how to minister to them and to their needs. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and make 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 84. Matthew 5:42. Acts 11:27-30. Romans 15:24-28. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4. 2 Corinthians 9:1-4. 1 Kings 17:8-24. Luke 4:25-26. Malachi 3:10-12.

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