

# GRACE GIVING

## A Devotional Prayer Guide on the Subject of Financial Stewardship

Prayer Time #2

Thousand Hills Cattle

Focal Passage: Psalm 50:7-15

I have very few hobbies, but I suppose the way I dabble in the cattle business can be considered a hobby. I don't do it for a living. When I started having cattle of my own, I already had in mind what I would call my little cattle operation: "Thousand Hills Cattle." I wanted to ensure that whatever cattle I acquired, I would remember that ultimately those cattle belonged to the Lord. I am merely a steward of the cattle. The Psalmist's declaration makes this reality perfectly clear.

*"Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you; I am God, your God. "I do not reprove you for your sacrifices, and your burnt offerings are continually before Me. "I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds. "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. "I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains. "Shall I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of male goats? "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High; Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me." (Psalm 50:7-15)*

Psalm 50 speaks about a great deal more than cattle. The Lord owns everything. Everything being His, He doesn't have to take anything from His people. In His goodness He blesses His people. The Bible says, "Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights." (James 1:17). We do well when we view everything we have as a generous blessing from the Lord. He needs nothing. Our giving has no impact on the abundance that belongs to the Lord. His Word here in Psalm 50 is a great help to us. There are more than a few applications we can make from this passage, but I want to focus on one very important principle about grace giving. That principle is this: We must treat what God blesses us with as though it belongs to the Lord, and not to us. It does belong to the Lord!

People work hard to make a living. People sacrifice and train for vocations, they get education, and often move from their area in order to earn good wages. One can rightly say they earned a living, but we all must also realize that anything we have belongs to the Lord. Who gave us the ability or opportunity to work? Who made it possible to be trained or educated? Who showed you favor and blessed you? The Lord owns everything and provides for His people.

Have you ever given a gift to someone, and later noted how they showed little regard for your gift? Have you ever been frustrated by your children for not appreciating what you labored hard to provide for them? Have you ever blessed someone only to hear later how they squandered it carelessly? Have you ever been generous to someone but never saw that person show generosity to anyone else? Imagine what our frivolous, selfish, or prideful attitude might offend the Lord.

The Lord has given us every spiritual blessing we could possibly ever need in Christ. The Lord gave Himself for us. We should not overlook that or take that lightly. Grace giving reflects the right attitude about all the Lord has done for us in Christ.

As you pray, meditate on the verses here in Psalm 50. Our stewardship should reflect a desire to

please the Lord. One cannot please the Lord of All if we have the wrong attitude about the part of His all He has bequeathed to us! Our giving should reflect the grace God has shown to us. Thank you for reading, and please pray about this important matter of grace giving.

**Suggestions for your prayer time:**

- Thank the Lord for all He has provided for you.
- Give the Lord praise for the opportunities you have been given to gain material things.
- Confess any neglect you may have had regarding your appreciation for what the Lord provided.
- Ask the Lord to impress the main principle from this devotional reading upon your heart.
- Take stock of how your current stewardship might be reflected by your attitude about finances.
- Ask the Lord to provide for your needs from His abundance.
- Since God knows the heart, ask the Lord to show you those areas of stewardship where He is pleased, or those that where He is not pleased.