

Just Give Part 1: "Becoming like our Father" (2-4-2018)

This series: "Just Give" An act of surrender, that enables us to become Generous Givers, who learn to Steward well all we have been giving by our Father the King!

Today: Part 1 – "Becoming like our Father"

1) God is a Giver

God gives . . .

- Life (Job 33:4)
- Lavish Redemption (Ephesians 1:7-8)
- Eternal Comfort (2 Thessalonians 2:16)
- Future & Hope (Jeremiah 29:11)
- In Fact . . . Every Good & Perfect gift comes from Him! (James 1:17)

God gives because he loves . . . It's in his very nature to give!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave . . .

2) God made me a Giver and Steward

Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)

(27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 (28) 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."

Notes:

Matthew 16:19 (ESV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Notes:

Basic Principle – what I give out comes back . . .

Luke 6:38 (ESV)

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Notes: Is the word money used in this verse? Let's look at the full context . . .

Luke 6:36-38 (ESV)

(36) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. (37) "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (38) give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Our Basic Problem . . . I'm selfish, therefore I take, or if I give it's with wrong motives!

Self Analysis – Jesus gave us a really helpful tool . . .

Matthew 6:21 (ESV)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Examples of doing a treasure check:

a) Super Bowl prop bets . . .

- How long does it take Pink to sing national anthem
- How many times will they show Gisele (Tom Brady's wife)
- Will Justin Timberlake cover a Prince song during the halftime show
- Color of the shirt the coach wears, and what color Gatorade get's dumped on the winning coach

b) Stocks – how's your bitcoin doing right now?

c) Jeep owner (Me) – color, lift packages, tires, etc. and I see them everywhere!

3) How I learn to give

Giving is an antidote to selfishness . . .

Who I am works together with What I do. We will always get in trouble when we separate these 2 ideas!

“Obedience is our Participation in Transformation”

Deuteronomy 15 – The Sabbatical Year, and God's heart for His people to live generously and experience blessing

Deuteronomy 15:4-8 (ESV)

(4) But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess— (5) if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today. (6) For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you. (7) "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.

Notes: Giving Produces a good life . . . we aren't just talking financial. Don't lie to people. It's about so much more. It is good for us to be givers. It is health to our bones.

Becoming a Giver - 2 words of warning, and 2 words of wisdom . . .

a) Selfish Heart

Deuteronomy 15:9 (ESV)

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 on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin.

Notes: Watch out for Selfishness! Moving from lust to love

“Unworthy” means: worthless, wicked, ruin, destruction

A.W. Tozer

“The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven’t yet come to the end of themselves. We’re still trying to give orders, and interfering with God’s work within us.”

b) Wounded Heart

Deuteronomy 15:10 (ESV)

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.

Notes: Watch out for a wounded or grieving heart!

“Grudging” means: grieving, sad, break, shatter

Robert Morris

“Selfishness attacks you before you give, and grief attacks you after you give”

c) Generous Heart

Deuteronomy 15:11-14 (ESV)

(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.' (12) "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. (13) And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. (14) You shall **furnish him liberally** out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.

Notes: Give Generously – Open wide your hand, and give liberally!!

“Liberally” means: It’s a very visual word - like giving your cloak and jewelry! (Think: prodigal returns)

d) Grateful Heart

Deuteronomy 15:15 (ESV)

You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

Notes: Live with Gratitude . . . remember your redemption, and give thanks!

When you choose Generosity & Gratitude you move from Selfish to Giving or from lust to love . . .

Tim Keller

Lust says, "What can you do for me?" Love says, "What can I do for you"

Conclusion:

Our Journey in Jesus (The story of the prodigal son)

- We come home as prodigals, but our journey doesn't end there.
- We are now learning to become like the Father!
- But if we aren't careful, we can get lost along the way and turn into the elder brother.
- Developing a Generous & Grateful heart is the key!!!

I am learning this first hand . . .

My Journey – from Abby to Micah (God withholds/takes, God asks me to give, God gives to me)