

January 18th – Generosity

*“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.”
(Prov. 3:27)*

Have you ever done a job, only to be ripped off when payment time came? A classic example is a waitress who serves a large party with high demands. At the end of the meal, the server expects a nice tip for her service. Instead, she gets a couple of bucks – perhaps a 2% tip on a \$100 meal. That is exasperating. When we do a good job, we expect to be rewarded accordingly. Even the Bible says that “the laborer is worthy of his wages” (Luke 10:7).

It upsets us when people are stingy towards us, but I wonder if it angers us just as much when we are greedy toward others? Today’s verse gives us a clear command – “do not withhold good from those to whom it is due.” If someone has served you well, you should be quick to reward. On this point, and at every point, the “Golden Rule” should apply – “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise” (Luke 6:31). Give to others as you would want to be given to you.

The command comes with a caveat – “when it is in the power of your hand to do so.” Sometimes the spirit is willing, but the wallet is empty. Generosity is not just monetary – there are many ways you can show your gratitude to someone else. But, if you receive a service, knowing someone is expecting remuneration, you should be prepared to give generously. For instance, if you can’t afford to tip, you can’t afford to eat out. Giving is the only time it’s good for a Christ-follower to be a liberal.