

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Sermon Points

**Week 2 - 4.30.23 | Tyler Wilson**

**Title: Serving, Mercy & Giving**

**Scripture: Matthew 20:25-28**

Main Point: Though often overlooked in importance, the supportive gifts of Serving, Mercy, and Giving are indispensable in the care and mission of the church

Scripture: Matthew 20:25-28 ESV - But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Spiritual Gifts** - Various abilities given by God's grace to all believers in order to minister to others with heightened effectiveness that are empowered by, and in fact manifestations of, the Holy Spirit for the purpose of building up the church.

You must:

- #1 - Know all the roles
  - #2 - Affirm others of their role
  - #3 - Care for others in their role
  - #4 - Pursue more gifts (1 Cor. 14:1)
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## **SERVING / HELPING**

1. Definition - The ability to identify practical needs and undone tasks and joyfully complete them to provide supportive assistance.

2. In a Word - Helper

3. Biblical Examples

- Martha (Luke 10, John 12:2)

- Epaphras (Col. 1:7)
- Tychicus (Col. 4:7, Eph. 6:21)
- Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25)
- Mark (2 Tim. 4:11)
- Stephanas' Household (1 Cor. 16:15)
- Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2)
- Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, Salome (Mark 15:40-41)

#### 4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Like to get stuff done
- Recognize needs and are drawn to quickly meet them
- Enjoy helping others become more effective in their ministry
- Seek out ways to serve behind the scenes
- Content in supportive role rather than leadership role
- Often detail-oriented and task-driven
- Like to relieve leaders of routine tasks so they can focus on their priorities
- Stay with a project until it is completed
- Satisfaction in seeing a job finished and goals accomplished
- Naturally tend to put others needs ahead of your own
- Joy in enabling the success of the overall mission

#### 5. Goal of this Gift

- People's needs are met
- Leaders are freed up and energized
- Tasks aren't falling through the cracks
- Church is more efficient and effective in our mission - able to focus more outwardly since inward tasks and needs are being fulfilled.

#### 6. Picture of the Church - Restaurant

#### 7. Character of God on display - Humility

#### 8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

##### **Ministries**

- Set-Up Team, Parking Team, Greeting Team, Hospitality Team
- A/V Production Team or Worship team
- Photography, Social Media
- Security Team
- Events Team
- Well Kids
- Go to deacons or staff and ask how you can specifically help

##### **GC / Organically**

- home or car repairs, opening your house, taking food, mowing lawn, etc. to meet practical needs.
- Other
- Global Missions - Logan
- Benevolence - Darryl
- Grace Home
- Moore Faith Medical Clinic

#### 9. Ways to misuse the gift - warnings & weaknesses to watch out for

- Hard to say no - can take on too much
- See it as a duty / obligation - void of joy and gladness
- Treat it transactionally in hopes of receiving recognition in return
- Forget to rest and sit at Jesus' feet first - BEING before DOING - worshiper before worker. (martha - distracted with much serving)
- Can become a doormat or martyr
- May become pushy or overly interfering in eagerness to help
- Potential to neglect own personal health or own family's needs by being too busy helping others
- Critical towards those who don't detect and meet obvious needs
- Hard to accept being served by others.
- Easily hurt when unappreciated

#### 10. Encouragement to better utilize the gift

- Be an initiator - don't wait to be asked. Look for the need!
- Serve with God's strength, not yours (1 Pet. 4:11)
- Remember the big picture - this matters to the mission!

#### 11. Everyone else

- Appreciate them!
- Don't avoid serving

### **MERCY**

1. Definition - the ability to feel genuine compassion towards those suffering physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, and enter into their pain with caring comfort and alleviating acts.

#### 2. In a Word - Caring

#### 3. Biblical Examples

- Tabitha (Acts 9:36)
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

- Ruth & Boaz (Ruth)
- Nehemiah (Neh. 1)
- Matt. 25:34-40

#### 4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Sensitive toward those who are hurting - can quickly discern when someone is not doing well and often sees beneath the surface to deeper layers of needs and pain.
- Sympathy flows naturally for those in trials and hardship.
- Quickly understands what someone is going through and is stirred with concern.
- Drawn to marginalized and overlooked people - even when you don't know them.
- Burdened to pray for people often.
- Want to walk alongside those in distress and are patient in helping bear their burdens.
- Typically good listeners and have a kind disposition.
- Can easily match others emotionally - Rejoice with those who rejoice & mourn with those who mourn.
- Eager to care for and comfort those in pain to see them relieved.
- Stay with people over the long haul to see them through the process.
- Feel compassion even when someone's suffering is related to their own sin
- Comfortable with the ministry of presence.
- Pulled towards crises situations rather than avoiding them.
- Naturally very trusting, yet easily detects insincerity in others.
- Careful with words and actions to avoid hurting others.
- Being with those who are suffering brings joy vs. bringing you down

#### 5. Goal of this Gift

- Nobody alone or unseen in their suffering
- Hurting people cared for and helped towards their healing in the Lord

#### 6. Picture of the church - Hospital

#### 7. Character of God on display - Compassion

#### 8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

##### **Ministries**

- Counseling Ministry
- Prayer Teams
- Benevolence
- Well Kids
- Events Team

##### **GC / Organically**

- personally following up with people going through hard things

- hang out / visit people going through hard things - ministry of presence
- meal trains / hospital visits
- have an eye especially towards widows, single moms, those without family close, minorities, elderly, singles, children, disabled, sick, etc.

#### **Other**

- Grace Home
- Foster and Adoption Ministry
- Moore Faith Medical Clinic
- Prison ministry, Homeless ministry, Advocacy ministry.

#### 9. Ways to misuse this gift / warnings & weaknesses to watch out for:

- Can easily be taken advantage of without wise boundaries
- Emotional enmeshment - absorbing the weight of others onto you - heaviness, and can't disassociate that. you feel their reality so much it becomes yours.
- Can be overly sensitive and easily be hurt yourself.
- Tend to be guided by emotions sometimes too much over reason.
- Can become indecisive in the confusing swirl of feelings.
- May exclusively show mercy when the person in need also requires exhortation or reproof, and therefore actually hinder true healing and growth.
- Difficulty in being firm until completely convinced of its benefit
- Can sometimes tend to concentrate more on the physical or emotional needs over spiritual.
- Can be frustrated and very sad in wondering why others don't see what you see or feel the compassion to the degree you feel - easy to isolate in emotions.

#### 10. Encouragement to better utilize this gift:

- You're not alone!
- Don't just feel - Act!
- Keep going - don't lose heart from compassion fatigue by being refilled with HIS mercy.
- Do acts of mercy with cheerfulness / eagerness.

#### 11. Everyone else:

- Don't excuse yourself from the call to compassion
- Encourage and pray for those on the front lines of mercy ministry - it's heavy and exhausting.

## **GIVING**

1. Definition - the ability to joyfully give over and above out of one's own material resources to meet the needs of the church's ministries and individual people.

## 2. In a Word - Generous

### 3. Biblical Examples

- Mary Magdalene, Joanna Susanna (Luke 8:2-3)
- Barnabas (Acts 4:34-37)
- Macedonian Churches (2 Cor. 8:1-7)
- Poor Widow (Mark 12:41-44)
- Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

### 4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Have an eye for seeing the needs of people and ministries and are eager to contribute to them.
- Seek out opportunities to give without being asked.
- Live gratefully - very aware of the blessings God has given you.
- Typically excellent stewards of resources - seek ways to increase and maximize them in order to contribute more, often adjusting lifestyles so they can give more away.
- View their resources through a lens of how can this be used by others
- Prefer to remain low-profile / unseen in giving - don't like credit for their giving.
- See giving to a worthwhile project or need as an exciting honor and privilege.
- Driven to see people rejoice in God's provision
- Plan and purposely give over their regular giving - readiness to give.
- Like to motivate others to give through their giving.
- Seek to give the highest quality or value of gift possible.
- See resources as tools for God's use and recognize His ultimate ownership of everything

### 5. Goal of this gift:

- Needs are met and provided for
- Ministry is enabled
- Mission is furthered
- Stewardship is strengthened

### 6. Picture of the Church - Power Plant

### 7. Character of God on Display - Provider

### 8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

#### **Ministries**

- Regular Giving
- Above and Beyond Projects like building or recording songs
- Specific Needs - scholarships

#### **GC / Organically**

- allow resources like car, home, tools, etc. to be used or even give away
- provide essential things like meals, clothes, baby gear, etc.
- help with medical expenses
- help with utilities
- anonymous gifts based on needs

9. Ways to misuse this gift / warnings and weaknesses to watch out for:

- Using money to try and control outcomes or people.
- Seeking power or recognition - even if subtly.
- Easy to focus on temporal values only and forget the spiritual value.
- Attempts to encourage others to give may feel pressuring
- Prosperity Gospel - Putting demands on God by viewing giving 'in faith' as a transaction that he must repay with blessing. (God relegated to a genie - Giving for personal gain)
- Temptation to feel expectation or entitlement of preferential treatment
- Easy to think because you gave so generously that other areas of spiritual life can be overlooked - 'I'm good'.

10. Encouragement:

- Take the initiative and seek out needs
- Give joyfully (Rom. 12:8)
- Teach others stewardship

11. Everyone Else:

- Don't over-glorify / don't under-honor - let it fuel your praise of God
- Humbly come with any needs through proper channels
- Seek to steward your own resources to increase ability to give

- 1 - Do you have this gift?
- 2 - Are you using this gift?
- 3 - Are you flourishing in it?