

Bible Studies

Generous

Read Matthew 6v20-24

There is much debate about what this passage means. It is hard for many commentators to explain why having *good eyes* and a *body filled with light*, should be sandwiched between verse that talk about money.

Any explanations?

The answer is easy and is found in Hebrew idiom. In Jesus day and in modern Hebrew, to have a good eye, means to be generous. “*Give with a good eye*” say the adverts on TV for national appeals. Jesus is calling for us to be generous. By doing so we will be storing our treasure in heaven, and ensuring our lives serve God and are not dominated by money.

Consider:

Matthew 5v42

Luke 11v41

Luke 12v33

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38
Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 2 Corinths 9:6

This is a basic scriptural principle, when we do, God does. The measure we use is the measure used for us, with interest.

Do you think this just applies to financial giving? What other things might it apply to?

If we do not give what happens?

We all want to be blessed by the Lord. Financially but in other areas of our lives also the problem is that often we give God nothing to bless us with. Our measure is so small that what is measured back to us hardly exists at all.

*One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25*
A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

What do we learn from these verses?

How do we give?



Matthew 6v3-4

Does this mean we must give in total secrecy?

Is it significant that Jesus said when not if?

Did Jesus give to the poor? John 13v29, 12v5-6

(in keeping with His own teaching we cannot expect a direct statement)



Mark 12v41-44

Why was her gift more?

Is anyone too poor to give?



2 Corinths 8v12

What makes a gift acceptable?





2 Corinthians 9v7

What kind of giver does God love?

Why?

How shouldn't we give?

What does this say about those who are always trying to drum up money?

Gifts that are given under compulsion or gifts that are given with strings attached to them are no gift at all. Gifts must be given freely and from the heart.

What gifts would you not accept?

When a gift is given freely should we accept it?

the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

Do not rob someone of their blessing.

Read 2 Corinthians 8v1-5

This passage refers to a collection Paul organised on behalf of the believers in Jerusalem who were living in dire poverty. It was not a collection Paul wanted for himself, we know he bluntly refused to accept money from the Corinthian Christians. After explaining that he has the right to receive money from the Church, he then explains that he will not use this right! 1 Cor 9v15, 2 Cor 12v14. Nor is he collecting to build some church. This was giving to where the need was.

but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. 2 Corinthians 8:5

What do you think this means?

I think it means that our giving should be an expression of our devotion to God.

What did they give?

What do you think God wants more us or our money?

What do you think the Church wants more?



2 Corinthians 8v7

This verse tells us two things: firstly that giving is necessary for and a part of Christian maturity. Secondly that giving is a grace. The word grace is the Greek Charisma, the same word we translate Gift when we talk about the gifts of the Spirit.

Is giving a gift of the Spirit? Romans 12v6-8

Who do we give to?



Malachi 3v8-10

This verse talks about tithing the money we give to the Church to finance it's operations. In fact it is not given to the Church by to God as the passage implies. Obviously this is necessary. But it also speaks of offerings. This is money we give for other things.

What was the money the Philipians sent to Paul for?

Philipians 4v15-16, (2 Corinthians 11v8)

Should we do the same?



1 John 3v16-18

I have been very careful in this study to avoid the mistake of thinking that generosity is only expressed in Dollars and Cents, **How else is it expressed?**

When we give to missions, charity, the poor or a brother in need, who are we really giving to? Matthew 25v40