

Giving—Another perspective. What giving ought to mean to us

We need to take time and think about the sacrifice from the giver has to make to give to us. If we do, we will be more thankful, not only to that person but also to the Lord. I believe this perspective will help us when we give, are given and finally to become thankful people.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The greatest giver that has ever lived was the God the Father. He gave His ONLY Son—the Lord Jesus to come and die for us all. What a sacrifice from the Father!

Matthew 15:33-38 ³³And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? ³⁴And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. ³⁵And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. ³⁶And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. ³⁷And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. ³⁸And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

No gift is too small when it is given in faith. What is small in the hands of God will multiply.

The little boy only had seven loaves of bread and few fishes but when they were put in the hands of Jesus, He did not complain about how small or how not enough it was but rather gave thanks. He understood the sacrifice the kid had made, and He had a right perspective and received the little the kid sacrificed with thanksgiving.

Jesus saw opportunity for a miracle, while the disciples saw the insufficiency of the provision from the little boy. Little is much with God in it. Little may not necessarily remain little if it gets in the rights hands, right perspective, and a believing heart. One reason we complain about little is because we cannot see past the little. We see lack, we see not enough rather than seeing the God of multiplication and increase as He did in the story of feeding the multitudes.

If you have been given something that does not fully meet your needs, do not complain. Give thanks to the Lord for what you have received and for the sacrifice from the other person. Do not curse it by saying, "it is not enough." If you do, you may never see an increase, but rather bless it

and be thankful. The truth is the God of more than enough lives on the inside of you and you can turn this around and see multiplication. It is not over for the believer. There is hope.

The Lord spoke to me one time and said, The Lord spoke to me onetime and said, "If you get mad because someone did not give to you, it is because you had them as your trust. You were not looking at me as your source."

I believe this is true for not just me but all of us. If you are mad at someone for not giving to you or giving you less that you expected you were leaning and trusting in them. You were not looking to God as your source. If you were looking to the Lord and believed that He was your source, you would not be angry at someone else for something they did not deliver.

When someone gives to me for example money or something else for whatever cause, regardless of the amount or size, I realize the following:

- 1. They had options. I was not the only one they could give to.
- 2. They valued and honored me.
 - They sacrificed to give to me. They have needs. They took what could have been spent on their family/loved ones and gave to me.
- 3. What they gave to me they had to worked for. They put in hours at work and they got paid then turned now they gave it to me.
- 4. They took from their hard work and gave to me. Money in many cases is hard work.
- 5. They gave me a portion of their time. So, they literally have given me their time and also paid me for it.
- 6. They gave me a portion of their life.
- 7. They gave me their sweat/hard work.
- 8. They thought about me.
- 9. They have a heart of a giver.
- 10. They had to do without in one area so they can give me.
- 11. They have taken from their future and given it to me.
- 12. They have taken from their would-be an investment and increase and gave it to me.

Regardless of how small a gift is, this should cause an individual to be thankful, not just to the person who gives to them (and they should), but above all to the Lord who gives, life, strength, wisdom, favor, provision, guidance to the person who gives to us. When Jesus was born, He was 100% God on the inside and 100% man, but looking at His physical body, He looked like a small gift that would never amount to anything, but He grew up to die for the sins of the whole world. Was that gift small? God forbid! Thank you, Father for the Lord Jesus.

I am thankful to the Lord the relationships He has brought in my life. I have a list of people that have been good to me. God has brought relationships in my life and have bless me in many different ways. Some have given little, some a lot but the truth is they sacrificed, and they gave

me what was theirs, not what was mine and I'm grateful. They are a treasure, but so am I. I'm a giver and I am fertile ground. Thank you, Lord.