

Life Church Sermon Scriptures for May 15, 2011

“When Giving to the Needy, Keep It on the Down Low” Part I

Today’s we will explore:

What kind of giving the Father rewards
Why is giving to the needy so important
The relationship between love and giving

Primary scripture

Matthew 6:1-4

¹ “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Supporting scripture

Proverbs 19:17

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”

Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 13

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, **for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other

command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Galatians 5:14

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Deuteronomy 5:21

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Luke 12:15 (ESV)

¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Matthew 4:8-10

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Putting the Word to Work

1. Begin to consider your attitude about giving. Compare it to God's standard.
2. Ask God to open your eyes to see the need of someone you can meet and then take action to meet!
3. Review your household finances. Are you putting to good use the resources God has given you? Ask God to make you a good steward (or manager) of what he has given you.

Understanding the Bible

Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages that we will be using in today's sermon at Life Church. We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible. **At Life Church we believe that since you're going to read an English translation of the Bible you might as well use an up to date one - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**

Life Church Web Site: <http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>