**August 25, 2019 “Hypocrisy in Giving” Matthew 6:2-4**

I would like to start off our study in the Word today with a couple of questions. How many of you, this week, whether on the Internet, through the email in your mailbox or on your phone have been asked by some organization to send them some money?

Name a few of them if you would…

Second question… “How many of you feel like this has jaded you about the subject of or act of giving?”

So then how do you or did you feel when I announced last week, that I would be preaching on giving this week? How many of you were just elated and thought it is about time he addressed this issue? You know he can preach about this or that but man I wish he would address the issue of giving…

So, if giving is such an issue in our everyday lives, is it a wonder that Jesus addresses money more often than any other subject except one other which is the “Kingdom of God”. Eleven of the 39 parables that Jesus taught… concerned money. In fact, He addressed money more than Heaven, Hell or for that matter… love.

So, if money is that big of an issue with the Lord, don’t you think we should at least take a good look at what the Bible has to say about giving?

So today, I want to do two things. The first is why does God want us to give? The second is… what does giving tell us about our relationship to Jesus?

1. Why does God want us to give?
   1. There are certain laws in nature that have been initiated by God
      1. Gravity… What goes up must come down
      2. Entropy… things tend to deteriorate
      3. Sowing and reaping
         1. Why does a farmer sow seed in the earth?
         2. To reap a harvest…
         3. Does he know how much he will reap while he is sowing?
   2. Many illustrations of God blessing people as they give
      1. Widow of Zarephath… (I Kings 17:8-16)
      2. How many of you think this widow was glad she gave away the oil and meal?
      3. Why?????
   3. Giving is the vehicle which God uses to bless His people
      1. He does not bless like the world does
         1. Luke 6:38
         2. Use the illustration of the potato chips
      2. II Corinthians 9:6
         1. How many would like to reap bountifully?
         2. How can we receive this?
         3. Sowing bountifully
2. Types of giving in the N.T… slide 1
   1. Systematic giving
      1. I Corinthians 16:1-3
         1. II Corinthians 9:7
         2. As he has purposed in his heart
            1. Remember that phrase
      2. Spontaneous giving
         1. Note one word used twice
            1. What is it?
            2. When…
            3. Don’t let your left hand know what your right is doing?
            4. What does that mean?

Suggestions…

Means don’t think about it just do it

Is this the same as systematic giving?

NO…

1. Myths about giving
   1. Does God need your money?
      1. Psalm 50:10-12
      2. How many of you think God is worried about
         1. Finishing the last couple of streets of gold because He is short on funds?
         2. About how much it will cost to have Jesus return and take all those folks out of their graves and take them and us to heaven?
   2. If I had more, I would give more
      1. Proverbs 11:24-25
         1. One who scatters… increases all the more
            1. The one who withholds… lives in want
         2. Generous man is… prosperous
         3. He who waters… will be watered
      2. Luke 16:10-15
   3. Giving is not going to hurt
      1. II Samuel 24:18-25
         1. I will not give to God that which costs me nothing
            1. What is the definition of nothing?

That which rocks dream about

* + 1. II Corinthians 8:1-5
       1. What was the result of their sacrificial giving?
          1. II Corinthians 8:1… the grace of God was given to those churches
    2. Judges 11:30-31, 34
       1. Don’t tell me that giving is not going to hurt
  1. All every church ever wants is your money
     1. Is that true?
        1. Absolutely it is
        2. I want each and every one of you to be blessed
           1. II Corinthians 9:8-11

1. The basis for giving is… love
   1. Luke 7:36-48
      1. Why did this woman love so deeply?
      2. Because her sins which were many would all be washed away
         1. Love is proportional to forgiveness
         2. Giving is proportional to love
            1. Matthew 6:21… where your treasure is… there will your heart be also
   2. Perfume…slide

Here is the one thing I want you to do this week… ask yourself this question… every day. What would I do with a $1,000 dollar/ounce perfume?