

Giving and Receiving

August 19, 2012

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

Vol. 2 Num. 33

Core Competency:

I Give Away God's Money- I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

"Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)"

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Introduction

Maxey Jarman was a devout Christian and an internationally known businessman. He transformed his 75-employee company, Genesco, into the world's largest apparel corporation in the late 1960's. During the course of his lifetime, Maxey gave away millions. He built churches and bible schools, gave to the needy, and started a non-profit organization for Christian causes. At one point in his career, Jarman experienced what most would view as a career failure. He lost his company and most of his personal fortune.

During the darkest days of his financial crunch, a close personal friend asked if he ever thought of the millions he had given away over the years. Jarman answered, "Of course I have, but remember, I didn't lose a penny I gave away. I only lost what I kept." This is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian life.

Paul commended the Philippians for their giving and addressed this principle at points throughout his letter. As he said in Philippians 3:8 "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ." You see, we can never out-give God. What is more, the act of giving forces us to trust God. It deepens our relationship with Him and that is a blessing both continuous and infinite in nature.

This Week

As you study this week, ask God to give you a heart that yearns to give generously and cheerfully. Ask Him to give you the wisdom to be a good steward of every blessing that he has lavished upon you. Ask Him to give you the contentment that will free your focus to pass beyond your own narrowness and bring into view the good works that God has prepared for you. Delight yourself in Him, remembering that He is both the source of every good thing in your life and the One who will work in you to act according to his good purpose. Finally, humbly consider to whom he may be calling you to give.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Philippians 4:10-23

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it.

11 I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

12 I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.

13 I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

14 Still, you did well by sharing with me in my hardship.

15 And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my

need several times.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account.

18 But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. Those brothers who are with me greet you.

22 All the saints greet you, but especially those from Caesar's household.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. If you had to come up with a heading for this passage, what would it be?
2. Answer the following questions on contentment:
 - a) In what areas do people (including you) find it difficult to be content?
 - b) What are the underlying attitudes associated with discontentment?
 - c) In your own words, what do you think that Paul says is the secret of contentment and why?

d) What specific actions, if any, can you take to be content in your circumstances?

e) In light of this passage, are there ever circumstances when it might not be good to be content? Explain your answer.

3. a) Why does Paul commend the Philippian church for their giving?

b) What are common barriers in your life to giving?

c) Tell about a time when you were in need and someone shared with you. How did their generosity affect you?

4. a) Clearly, financial support was important to meeting Paul's needs. In what other ways can a believer give?

b) List all the positive effects of giving and list possible negative effects of not giving.

5. 2 Corinthians 8:7 is the core competency this week. What can you do to cultivate a heart that delights in giving? How and to whom might God be calling you to give?

Sermon Notes:

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP:

Discuss in Life Group the connection between 4:6-7 and 4:11-13.

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ