



The Generous Spirit

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor – May 26, 2013

Luke 6:38; 21:1-4

PRINCIPLE: Biblical stewardship is organizing your life in such a way that God can spend it.

LESSONS ABOUT GIVING GOD'S WAY (Luke 21:1-4)

- ❶ Giving has always been an essential part of worship.
 - Exodus 23:15 - *No one is to appear before me empty-handed.*
 - Reasons for giving:
 - A. The good that such gifts can accomplish
 - B. The testing and strengthening of our faith (cf. Malachi 3:10)
 - C. The good that such giving does to the character of the giver

- ❷ The Lord carefully observes us as we give. (cf. Mark 12:41)
- ❸ The Lord does not focus on the amount given, but on the heart of the giver.
- ❹ Real giving requires faith. (Philippians 4:19)
- ❺ Real giving must be sacrificial. (1 Chronicles 21:24)
 - Sacrifice = The act of giving up something that is greatly valued
- ❻ Real giving has a certain recklessness in it. (Mark 14:3-9)

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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of the generous heart of God and how giving is act of worship.

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

1. **READ Luke 6:37-38.** Was there anything from Pastor Scott's teaching on these verses the last two weeks that challenged, encouraged or confused you?
2. One of the principle's from Sunday's teaching was "Biblical stewardship is organizing your life in such a way that God can spend it." What are some things that get in the way of being able to "spend our lives for God"?
3. What are some ways we can free our lives up to be better able to "spend our lives for God"?

4. **READ Mark 12:38-44.** Based on what the text tells us, how do you think the lifestyle of the teachers of the Law would contrast with that of the poor widow?
5. What is Jesus' point in contrasting the giving situations of the teachers of the Law with the poor widow?
6. When can "more" actually be "less"? When can a "little" actually be a "lot"?
7. How do you respond to the principle from Sunday's teaching: "Giving has always been an essential part of worship"?
8. Of the reasons listed for giving, which one resonates with you the most? Which one do you find the most challenging? Are there any other reasons you can list?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.