



TOPIC: FAITHFUL FAITH—FULL GIVING (re-visited)

Lesson in a Line:

God loves a cheerful giver who puts Him first, in faith.

Points to Make

- ❖ Many have responded to the call to give. Many want to give but have little or nothing. God sees, God knows and God will respond.
- ❖ God sometimes allows us to see in ourselves where our hearts really are by our feelings about money and our faith in God regarding money.
- ❖ The Lord sent His prophet to the widow in Zarephath at the time of her greatest need. Elijah asked her to give food to him first, before taking care of herself and her son. It may have seemed selfish and rude, but God had a plan!
- ❖ Fortunately, the widow kept listening to what Elijah had to say: “If you make me a cake *first*, *then* God will provide for you *until* the rains return and everybody has crops to reap again.”
- ❖ In other words, this all begins with a step of faith on our part to trust, test and prove God. God responds AFTER we obey, not before.
- ❖ God told the people in Malachi’s day to test Him, to prove Him, to try Him. He *can* be tested in a positive way (Malachi 3:10), just as He can be tested in a negative way (Psalm 95:8-10).
- ❖ Go ahead and test God! Prove God! He will be faithful and true to His word if we give in faith and become faithful givers!
- ❖ Here are some New Testament examples of how this works:
- ❖ Luke 21:1-4 —The widow gave everything she owned! God saw what she did. Do you think she tested God? Absolutely! Do you think He came through for her? Absolutely! How can we be so sure? God cannot deny His word.

Key Scriptures:

1 Kings 17:8-16; Malachi 3:10; Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5,12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 6:38; Deuteronomy 8:11-18; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

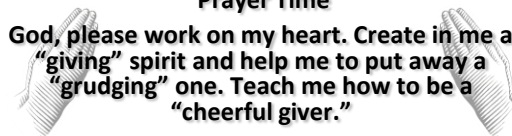
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12 —Churches in Macedonia gave *beyond* their ability, with joy, to meet the need of the saints in Jerusalem. FIRST, they gave themselves to the Lord, and then gave with a willing mind.
- ❖ Sow bountifully, reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- ❖ Make a commitment and give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- ❖ God will give the increase back to us as a matter of divine principle. We will reap in accordance with our sowing (2 Corinthians 9:8-11; Luke 6:38).

Discussion Tools

- ❖ How do you feel about special requests for giving in the church? How do you usually respond internally?
- ❖ Have you ever refused to give when an appeal was made, when you could have given? Why? Was there any result from this that you noticed?
- ❖ Have you ever responded to an appeal when you had the funds available? When you didn’t? Why? Was there any result from this that you noticed?
- ❖ Why do you think God/ the church/ preachers/ etc., give “giving” such importance when they talk about Christian living?
- ❖ In your opinion, what is “a cheerful giver”? Are you one?

Prayer Time

God, please work on my heart. Create in me a “giving” spirit and help me to put away a “grudging” one. Teach me how to be a “cheerful giver.”



ICE-BREAKER: Look in your wallet. If you were going to give a homeless person some change, what would you reach for and how much would you still have left over? Be truthful.

Horizontal lines for taking notes.