

## GIVING TALKS

**Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:1-13**

**Introduction:** The best way to get someone's attention is to give them something they will/would appreciate. Haven't you received something from someone and it meant something to you because they gave it to you? We give things and when we do somebody forms an opinion of us. Have you ever thought that "giving talks?" What we give and why we give has a way of expressing our feelings. What has your giving to God had to say about your?

### I. GIVING WHEN REQUIRED (BY LAW)

1. The Old Testament system of giving was well outlined:
  - There was the "family tithe" - sort of a celebration supper.
  - There was the "charity tithe" - received every third year for the needy.
  - There was the "temple tithe" - which in some cases, such as agriculture, was at least 23% of one's agriculture income.
2. The Old Testament system of giving was in integral part of everyone's life and was just as natural as breathing.
3. The Old Testament system of giving was outlined in detail by Law.

### II. GIVING NOT UNDER THE LAW

1. The New Testament system of giving is not under some kind of law detailing how much to give and to give for a certain reason.
  - Barnabas sold some property and gave all the proceeds to the Church.
  - A woman anointed the feet of Jesus with very expensive, precious ointment.
  - Zacchaeus gave half of all that he owned.
  - A widow gave her last 1/2 cent.
  - A man with two coats gave one away.
  - The Macedonian Church gave far beyond their ability.
2. The New Testament motive in giving is not Law, but LOVE, and the guideline in giving is Stewardship in all things.
  - In our life - we are made by God, we are God's Temple, we are God's means of outreach.
    - How much of our life does God actually have?
  - In our influence - our personalities, the effect on others (good or bad).
    - Is Jesus Christ seen in our behavior, in our influence?
  - In our loyalty - faithfulness comes from our love for the Lord Jesus.
    - loyalty reveals a quality in our lives.
  - In our daily work - where is the Lord Jesus on our jobs?
    - Do we take Jesus with us to work?
  - In our freedom - We, in America, live in a free land.
    - Freedom comes under certain conditions.
    - What are we doing to keep our country free?

- In our spiritual gifts - God works through each Christian through gifts He gives.
    - Every Christian has at least one give gift to be used for the Lord.
    - Are YOU using your God-given gift for the Lord Jesus/
  - In our possessions - God is creator and owner.
    - We belong to God.
    - God entrusts to us certain material possessions.
3. When we attend worship we have the opportunity to give back to God a portion of that which He has given and that which He will give to us to use and to take care of for Him.
- Our relationship to God, our love for Jesus Christ can be expressed in one way and that is by our attitude toward material things.
  - Those furthest away from God understand stewardship the least for the closer one is to God, the better steward of all parts of life will he/she be.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Can the Lord Jesus trust us to give out of our love for Him?
2. Will our love for the Lord Jesus, expressed by a promise to do better, really reflect how true our love really is?
3. What kind of steward have YOU been with your life in the past?
  - How have you used your influence, your loyalty, your freedom, your spiritual gifts?
4. If Giving really can talk, what has your "giving" been saying about you and your love for the Lord?