

“Being a Generous Christian”

Matt. 25:35-40

Open: Story

- Jesus is about to be crucified and will soon be taken from this earth. We find Jesus giving His followers a few last words. He wanted his followers to have a proper focus on the task at hand.
- We find Jesus talking about the final judgement, when all will stand before God, and for those who are saved, we find they will be rewarded for their actions while they were here on earth. **Matt. 25:31-32** *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:”*
- Jesus wanted His followers to not just be focused on their own wellbeing; but instead, He wanted each Christian to understand that to love Christ was to love the people Christ loved.
 - They loved Jesus. Many have followed Jesus for the last 3 ½ years.
 - Many were sad and did not understand why Jesus had to leave them.
 - Jesus knew that his followers wanted to please him and would be confused on how to love him after he was gone.
- Jesus teaches his followers that they could love Him and be blessed while trying to love Him while they love on those He had loved while He was here on earth. **Matt. 25:35-40**
 - Notice Jesus did not mention spending time with the wealthy, the spiritual, or the socially accepted.
 - Jesus drew their attention to helping out and caring for those who had no one to care for them, and to take the time to love those who He had loved. (Maimed, halt, blind, sick, outcast, and the poor)

Tran:

- We need to realize that everything that Jesus has given to us, He gave to us to be a tool to help love the people that Jesus loved. **John 15:9** *“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”*
 - The Holy Spirit (the comforter) **John 15:26-27** *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”*
 - The power of the Love of God. **Matt. 10:8** *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”*
 - The confidence and promise to go and do the same work Jesus did. **John. 20:21** *“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”*
- We need to realize that Jesus died to save us; but after we get saved, we need to realize that we not only received a new home but also a new purpose while here on earth.
 - It is clear not only through the teach of Christ to His followers, but it is also evident through the life that Jesus lived that He wanted all Christians to live their life focused on the needs of others.
 - Jesus wanted His followers to live their life in such a way that would bring Glory to God.

I. We are to follow Jesus' example of generosity in the area of our Time.

- **James 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
- A. Jesus' ministry was so effective largely in part because of the fact that Jesus lived every moment of every day realizing He did not have much time to get things accomplished.
 1. Seek and save the lost
 2. Teach and train the Christian
 3. Accomplish the will of His father.
- B. Jesus wanted us to realize there was more things in life that were beneficial to a child of God than living solely for money and pleasures of this world. **Matt. 6:25** “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”
 1. Many Christians never find satisfaction in the Christian life because they live their lives trying to substitute the carnal for the spiritual.
 2. The only way for a Christian to ever be satisfied is to learn to be content with what he has been given and by doing what he has been called to do. **Phil. 4:11-13** “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. [12] I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. [13] I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
- C. Jesus wanted us to live with eternity in view and invest out time into eternal things that will bring eternal revenue. **Matt. 6:19-20** “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: [20] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

II. We are to follow Jesus' example of generosity in the area of our Talent.

- Throughout the scriptures, we find that God gives gifts to people, not for the glorification of that individual, but for the glorification of God and for the furtherance of the gospel.
 - **I Tim. 4:14** “Neglect not the gift that is in thee...”
 - **II Tim 1:6** “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee...”
- A. We are not to be jealous of another's talent or judge the actions of Christians around us. We are to simple focus on doing what God has called us to do. **I Cor. 7:7** “For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.”
- B. We all have a unique job to do as individuals as a part of the work of God; we need to spend our time working together as a team and not criticizing those on our team. **Rom. 12:6-9** “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; [7] Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; [8] Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. [9] Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

III. We are to follow Jesus' example of generosity in the area of our Treasure.

- To the world money is a means to gain what they want.
 - To the child of God, money is a tool that is used to influence more people for the cause of Christ.
- A. Your wallet is an indicator of your focus. **Matt. 6:21** *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*
- B. God does not look at what you give, He looks at how much you have left after you give.
Mark 12:41-44 *"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. [42] And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. [43] And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: [44] For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."*
- C. God does not need much; He just needs what little you have. **Matt. 14:17-20** *"And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. [18] He said, Bring them hither to me. [19] And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. [20] And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full."*

IV. We are to follow Jesus' example of generosity in the area of the Truth.

- We have been given the unique responsibility of having the knowledge of the Gospel (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) and it is our responsibility to distribute it.
I Thess. 2:4 *"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."*
- A. We are to let our light shine. **Matt. 5:16-17** *"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*
- B. We are not to be ashamed of the gospel. **Rom 1:16-17a** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. [17] For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:"*

Close:

- Jesus lived His life looking for someone in which to be a blessing. When is the last time you spent one day looking for someone to help?
- As a child of God, how generous of a Christian are you being?

Prov. 22:9

"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor."