



10 – 16 Mar, 2019

Lent, part 3

**‘I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back
—but God has a bigger shovel’**

R G LeTourneau (mover of men and mountains)

Jesus’ standard of generosity is different than the humans’

- † To whom much is given, much is expected; the widow’s offering (**Mar 12:41-44**)
- † Give without return (**Luk 14: 12-14**)

Generosity does not weaken nor deprive the giver but makes him hundredfold richer (**1Kin 17: 8-16; Mar 10: 29-31**)

So do not be afraid to give

- † We can never out give God
- † Giving to others what God has so richly given to us, yields in Joy, security and freedom that cannot be obtained from elsewhere

The biggest act of generosity is Jesus giving Himself totally to us

- † He left the Kingdom of Heaven and descended to earth
- † He took the human nature forever, although His Divine nature did not diminish

What does Jesus say about generosity? (**Luk 12: 22-34; Heb 13: 5-6**)

- † Trust in the Lord Who provides all your needs
- † Not to be afraid of giving because we have a Generous Father
- † The Lord will provide us immediate rewards besides the eternal
- † When we give to others, we are actually giving Jesus Himself
- † Tithing is not an act of generosity. According to the Law of Moses, it is a legal obligation

Why should I be generous? (**Luk 6:38; 1 Tim 6:6-10**)

- † Because God is so generous to me
- † We do not own our possessions. We are only stewards
 - A steward is one who holds property in trust for another.
 - A faithful steward does not use the property for himself

How does God want me to give? (**2 Cor 9:6-15**)

- † Give the best from what you have to the Lord (**Pro 3:9-10; Joh 12:1-8**)

- † Give generously
- † And cheerfully
- † Without obligations, as a free response to my heart
- † Truthfully
- † Give money, material, time and good work too. Mother Teresa says the strongest form of generosity is to give your own time
- † By sharing generously (*Rom 12:3-8*)
- † Open your homes to receive others, as Raymond Feghali is doing (*Heb 13:1-2*)

The theory of generosity (*1 Chr 29:10-16*)

- † All that we have and own is from the Lord and to the Lord (*Gen 1; Psa 24:1; 50:9-12*)
- † Freely we were given (*Mat 10:8*)

Benefits of generosity (*Isa 58:10-11*)

- † You will own more. C S Lewis says, 'Nothing that you have not given away will ever be yours'
- † God's care is more abundant to His givers. Let us be a flowing river, not a dam
- † God will pour His blessings on the sincere giver, forgiving every sin (*Luk 7:37-60*)

 refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty' Proverbs 11:24 NIV

References

1. *A Call to Loving Service* by Ritch Grimes
2. *Victory Over the Darkness* by Neil Anderson

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

3. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
4. for CrossTalk to find a locale
5. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
6. to become more of saints and less of sinners
7. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
8. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
9. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
10. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
11. to all the sick
12. to all those in prison

13. to the unity of the Christians
14. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
15. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
16. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
17. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
18. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Orthodox Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السماوات ليتقدس إسمك ليأت ملكوتك ليتك مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض أعطنا خبرنا كفايت يومنا واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا كما نحن نغفر لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا ولا تدخلنا في التجارب لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان نؤمن بالله واحد الاب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض كل ما يرى وما لا يرى وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق الذي له وللاب جوهر واحد الذي به كان كل شيء والذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأنس وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الله الاب وسوف يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الاحياء والأموات والذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس الرب المحيي المُنْبِتِيق من الاب والابن الذي هو مع الاب والابن يُسجَد له ويُمَجَّد النَّاطِق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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