

Discovery Group - Basic Commands

(5) Give Generously

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Mark 12:41-44

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Why is giving such an essential practice of Christians?
- What most hinders you about giving generously? How might you overcome this obstacle?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Mark 16:15-20

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:1-8

John 20:21-23;

2 Timothy 2:1-10

2 Timothy 4:1-8

Give Generously

Jesus is clearly impressed with the woman in this story. She gave the greatest offering, even though it only amounted to two small copper coins. Clearly, the giving that God is looking for is a generosity that is not measured by the bottom line but by the heart.

The book of Acts gives us a picture of the generosity of the early followers of Jesus that is nothing short of staggering. Whenever anyone was in need, someone else would sell their property to get money to meet the need. In his letters, especially those to the Corinthians and Philippians, Paul urges the churches to give sacrificially. He makes it clear that this is not only to meet a need (though there were legitimate needs being met). No, giving generously is a necessary part of following Jesus. The giver needs to give even more than the one being given to needs the gift.

Giving is an act of trust. Like the woman whose gift so impressed Jesus, we should all give, at least at times, to such a degree that it requires faith. We give to demonstrate that God is enough for us. To prove that we trust Him to supply all our needs. To back up our claim that we trust in our loving Father more than in money.

Giving is the antidote to greed. God hates greed, and yet it is a vice that probably tempts every human. We always want more. That is our (old) nature. But our new nature is to be content with what we have - whether much or little. When we feel the desire for more growing in our minds, that is a good time to give in greater abundance. Nothing strikes down the selfishness of our flesh like letting go of something we have such a tendency to grasp.

Giving reveals the nature of the Father. *“God so loved the world that He gave...”* Giving is in the very nature of God, and when we give, we are revealing that to a watching world. Some people around us tend to think of God as an old cranky miser. The truth is that He is the most generous being in existence. When we give generously, we are acting as true sons and daughters of our expansive Father.