

I. Introduction.

II. What does giving have to do with worship? Matt. 6:19

- A. Your attitude towards wealth expresses your spiritual values. 6:21,24**
1. Many people serve Mammon by devoting their lives to storing up earthly treasures. Mt. 6:19,24 19:16-30 Lu. 16:19f 12:13-21 Co. 3:5 Isa. 55:1f *affluenza*
 2. When people are converted their attitude towards wealth changes radically. Lu. 19:1f Acts 19:19f 2:44-45 4:32-35
 3. Your wealth is a test of stewardship. Lu. 16:10-13 Mt. 25:14f D.t. 8:18 Ro. 14:12
 4. You must be fully devoted to serving God. 6:24 I Cor. 6:20
 5. While it is not wrong to have money and possessions, it is wrong to live for these.
- B. Giving is an act of faith. Mt. 6:20**
1. You exchange that which is temporal for that which is eternal.
 2. One who gives has first given himself to the Lord. II Cor. 8:5
 3. When you give, you have to trust God to meet your needs.
- C. Giving is worship. Heb. 13:16 Phil. 4:18 Acts 10:4**
1. The widow worshiped God through her gift. Mark 12:43-44
 2. Abraham willingly offered God that which was most precious to him. Ge. 22:1f Anything else would have been easier for Abraham.
 3. Are you willing to give up what is precious in this world for the Lord's sake?

III. Why should you give?

- A. Give because you love God and want to bring Him glory. I Co. 9:11-13 Heb. 13:16**
- B. Give out of gratitude to Christ Who gave Himself for you. II Cor. 8:9 Phil. 2:5-8 John 1:1f 17:5 3:16 II Co. 5:21 I Pet. 3:18 Rom. 5:18**
- C. Give because you love others. John 13:35 I John 4:20-21**
- D. Give because it is a privilege to be used as God's instrument. II Co. 9:15,8-10 Rom. 11:34-35 Hag. 2:8 Ps. 50:10**
- E. Some have unworthy motives for giving.**
1. Some give hoping to offset their sins with human merit. Eph. 2:8-9 Rom. 3:20
 2. Some give hoping to gain greater material wealth. II Cor. 9:6 8:2-3
 3. Some give expecting to gain influence in the church.
 4. Some give because tangible benefits are offered.
 5. Some give to be seen by men. Mt. 6:1-4

IV. How should you give?

- A. Give privately. Mat. 6:1-4**
1. Those who draw attention to their generosity lose their heavenly reward. Mt. 6:1-2
 2. Don't tell others when you give. Mt. 6:4 John 5:44 Acts 5:1-5
 3. Don't even tell yourself. Mt. 6:3
 4. Your giving is between you and God. Mt. 6:4

- B. Give, not grudgingly, but cheerfully. II Cor. 9:7 8:8 Ex. 35:21,29 36:3**
1. The Bible does not enforce Christian communism. II Co. 8:13f Acts 2:44-45 4:34f
 2. God's people should not need to be compelled to give. II Cor. 8:8 9:7
 3. Believers are willing and eager to give. II Cor. 8:3b-4 Ex. 36:5-7 I Chr. 29:1f
- C. Give regularly. I Cor. 16:2 II Cor. 9:7 Prov. 3:9 21:5**
- D. Give proportionately, as God has blessed you. II Co. 8:3,11-15 ICo. 16:1-2 Acts 11:29**
1. Is there a set percentage we ought to give?
 2. Must we tithe? Lev. 27:30 Dt. 12:11 14:28-29 Nu. 18:21-29 Mal. 3:8-12
The tithe can be a helpful guideline. Gen. 14:20 28:22 Mt. 23:23
 3. Under the New Covenant we have greater freedom and greater responsibility.
 4. All you have comes from God and belongs to God. II Co. 8:15 Deut. 8:16,18
Hab. 2:8 I Cor. 4:7 6:20
- E. Give generously and sacrificially. II Cor. 8:2-3,7 9:5-6 Lu. 6:38 Ro. 12:8 II Sa. 24:24**
1. For some, ten percent would be a great sacrifice.
 2. For others, ten percent may be far too little.
 3. We are the rich in this world. I Tim. 6:18-19
 4. Christians need to make wise lifestyle choices. I Tim. 6:9
 5. Some are not giving as they ought.
 6. If you are not giving, the greater concern is your spiritual state, not the church's budget. Mt. 6:24
- F. Give wisely.**
1. Beware of charities which misuse their funds. II Th. 3:10
 2. Give to the poor. II Cor. 8:13-15 Eph. 4:28 Gal. 2:10 I Jo. 3:16-18 Js. 1:27 2:14-17
Acts 4:34f 9:36 20:35 Pr. 19:17 Ro. 12:13 I Ti. 6:18 Ex. 16:18 Le. 25:35 Dt. 15:7-11
 3. Give to the work of the local church. Gal. 6:6 I Co. 9:11-14 I Ti. 5:17-18 Lu. 8:1-3
 4. Send forth evangelists and missionaries. Phil. 1:5 4:14-18 II Co. 11:8-9 Ro. 10:13f
 5. Give through the local church. Mt. 16:18 I Tim. 3:15 Acts 6:1-6 4:35
 6. Those who handle the Lord's money must be above reproach. II Cor. 8:16-24
I Co. 16:3 .

V. Concluding applications: What are the benefits of giving? Acts 20:35

- A. Your giving glorifies God. II Cor. 8:19,23 9:11-13,15 Heb. 13:16 Luke 17:10
- B. Your giving unites God's people in love. II Cor. 9:12-14 8:13-15 Rom. 15:26-27
- C. Your giving can be a testimony to the lost.
- D. Your giving results in material and spiritual blessings. Mt. 6:4,19-24 10:42 25:14-46
Pr. 19:17 22:9 11:25 Lu. 6:38 16:10f Phil. 4:17 ICo. 9:6, 8-11,14-15 Ps. 37:25
- E. You cannot give in God's way until you know the gift of God. II Cor. 8:9 Heb. 11:6

Discussion questions

1. What does giving have to do with worship?
2. What does it mean to worship Mammon (wealth)?
3. Why does it take faith to give?
4. What should motivate your giving?
5. What are some unworthy motives for giving?
6. Why should your giving be in secret?
7. Why should you give regularly?
8. How much should you give?
9. To whom should you give?
10. What are the benefits of giving?