



# GIVING

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**Ephesians 5:18-20 “be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

A criticism today is that too many churches only talk about money and yet, in light of the scriptures, we are usually lacking in the amount of time we spend on the subject. Fully 10% of all scripture and 25% of Jesus’ words deal with money. It is staggering how much the scriptures talk about money, our things, our giving, and how little churches actually do.

If we don’t understand Jesus nothing in the scriptures will make sense, especially when it comes to money and our “things.” God spoke and created everything with His words; therefore, there is nothing that does not belong to Him. All things were made for His glory, to reflect His Glory and be used for His purposes.

As we have looked at, in the book of Genesis, in creation there should be harmony, purpose, good, and love. Early in the scriptures God creates Humans as a crowning achievement of His creation. He gives them a choice, to take our lives and things He has given us and use them correctly or to dishonor Him with what He has made. What the first man and woman (and everyone since) has done is worship themselves and not God.

In Genesis 14, after a great victory for Abraham, a King comes out to meet Him...this King is from Salem (for many commentators this points to an early understanding of what would become Jerusalem). We see a contrast between two types of kings, a heavenly King and a self-righteous earthly king. The king of Sodom and the King of Salem.

- Sodom means scorched or burnt. Salem is suggestive of “Shalom,” the peace of God.
- The King of Sodom had all of his stuff and people saved by Abraham yet comes out to him empty handed and the first word he says to him is, “give.” *Melchizedek* comes and we are told He brought out bread and wine.
- The King of Sodom references himself and makes sure he gets what is his. The King of Salem blesses Abram and points to “God most high.”

Abraham has two kings come to him, the godly King speaks blessing just as God has done throughout all recorded history; our God has never ceased to be a giver. We too often look like the ungodly King of Sodom and look at God and others and say, “give me.”

Two different types of people that go through life: “bless you” and “give me.”

The King of Sodom lost his battle. He was a captive, and who liberated him? Abraham. Just like our great God shows up to save us from our sin and folly.

The heart of Christianity is belonging to Jesus. We think that our time is our time, and our money is our money and our life is our life, but they all belong to God. He has redeemed all things and now they should all be at His disposal. We can actually do with our possessions all that they were created for, to honor God and bless others.

It is not just that God thinks everything is His...everything really is His. But, we must remember that when God gets glory His people find joy. We will never be as happy as when we see God get His glory and we participate with Him in the work of the gospel.

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