

Evening Worship April 23, 2017

“Giving to God” Exodus 25:1-8

I. *Giving to the Church, is the same as giving to God  
(or at least it should be) –*

**Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering... (Exodus 25:1-2A NKJ)**

*Money is often a sore subject in the church. To the point I know I have rarely preach on it, and I don't think it my entire time here I have preached a sermon, on giving! For my own dad this which was a sore spot, it bothered him a great deal that “Christians” were always asking for money –*

“Some ministers are obsessed with money. They spend all their time talking about it. One thinks of the televangelists who preach the prosperity gospel. They seem unable to talk for more than five minutes without mentioning how important it is to support their ministry financially. Once I watched a minister who was desperate for pledges say to his television audience, “Just pick up the [profanity deleted] phone and call!”

On the other hand, some Christians are too embarrassed to talk about money at all. They view their finances as a private matter—it's none of the church's business. One minister received the following letter: “I was never so disappointed in a service as I was Sunday. I have an unbelieving friend that I got to come with me, and what were you preaching about? *Money!* I can assure you she was not impressed! And why money, when there are so many beautiful things to say? You'd better reconsider such messages in the future. Leave money to God, and he will handle everything, believe me. I love this church and usually like the sermons, but that was terrible.” The letter was signed, “A Christian who loves to go to church to hear the Word.”

Well, sooner or later anyone who wants to hear God's Word will hear a sermon on giving, because it's an important Biblical theme. More than 400 Bible passages talk specifically about money, as well as many others that teach general principles for Christian stewardship. Exodus 25 is one of those passages. The instructions God gave to Moses teach us to give our very best to God—from the heart—for his holy work.” Ryken and Hughes from their Exodus Commentary

*However, as bashful as I believe I have been in speaking about money, and giving, the Word of God does speak about these things and I will as well!*

*How we spend our money, our checkbooks, they speak loudly about how truly committed we are to God! God could have easily built the Tabernacle, the Temple and even our church today without one cent from any of us; however He, God Himself, asks the people, for an offering, because he would give us a chance to SHARE in His WORK!*

*If we are fearful that money given to a church or other ministry is not being used for God's glory, God's kingdom, God's purposes or will we should not give at all. However, when a church or ministry is truly seeking to do God's ministry, though imperfectly, we should give as giving not only to an organization or church, but to God!*

**“Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> “Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup> They said to Him, “Caesar's.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” <sup>22</sup> When they had heard *these words*, they marveled, and left Him and went their way. (Matthew 22:17-22 NKJ)**

*God deserves not only our money, but our very lives!*

II. *Giving to God should be from the heart –*

**“Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. (Exodus 25:2 NKJ)**

**Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. (Psalm 96:8 NKJ)**

**So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJ)**

1. *Notice the language, what is God asking for from us, an offering or a tax? Is there a difference? If there is a difference what is the difference?*

2. *I suggest this is the difference –*

**From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.** (Exodus 25:2 NKJ)

**So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.** (2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJ)

*God looks on and is concerned about our hearts when we give, the IRS is NOT, they will take your MONEY and the government will spent it on all sorts of things your heart is NOT with at all, and they do not care if your heart is with them ~ at least not until it is time for you to vote again!*

*Even if you HATE paying it, people must pay a tax, an offering is different!*

that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.<sup>3</sup> For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing,<sup>4</sup> imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. (2 Corinthians 8:2-4 NKJ)

III. *An offering, giving to God, is because He has given to us –*

We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NKJ)

*God has given us:*

1. *His Son –*

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** (John 3:16 NKJ)

2. *His Spirit –*

**"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"** (Luke 11:13 NKJ)

3. *He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing –*

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,** (Ephesians 1:3 NKJ)

4. *Christ gave Himself for us, washing us with the water of the Word –*

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,<sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,<sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** (Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJ)

5. *He provides for all our real needs –*

**"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"<sup>32</sup> "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."<sup>33</sup> "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33 NKJ)**

6. *We give back to God, only what He has first given to us, we who understand what God has given should be willing to give all, even our very lives –*

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.** (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

7. *Giving up things we have here for God's Kingdom and His purposes is not only right and good but ultimately it will work to be profitable for us –*

**Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."<sup>25</sup> "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."<sup>26</sup> "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26 NKJ)**

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*

*Jim Elliot, who gave his life in missionary service to the Auca Indians*

**Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You."<sup>29</sup> So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,<sup>30</sup> "who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." (Luke 18:28-30 NKJ)**

*Arnold Brevick*