

Making the Shift from Problem to Solution
Part #9 – Giving Like Jesus!
Sunday August 30, 2009
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"It is more blessed **to give** than to receive."
[Jesus] Acts 20:35

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**"
[Jesus] Matthew 6:19-21

15% of what Jesus said was about money and possessions.

*"My heart always goes where I put God's money...
Money leads; hearts follow."*
Randy Alcorn (The Treasure Principle)

Q – Why did Jesus spend so much time talking about money and possessions?

There is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money ... We make an effort to divorce faith and finances, but God won't let us – they are inseparable!
Randy Alcorn (The Treasurer Principle)

→ Luke 3:11-14 (The religious crowd asked John what they should do to demonstrate fruit of spiritual transformation)

1. V-11 → Share food and clothes with the **poor**
2. V-13 → Be **honest** in business
3. V-14 → Be **content** with your wages

The Corinthian Problem ... Giving was neglected!
Text: 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

They seemed to be neglecting ...

- A. **Regular** giving for sporadic giving (V-2)
- B. **Full** participation for the 20/80 principle (V-2)
- C. The **poor** (V-1)
→ Galatians 2:10
- D. Sacrificial giving for **selective** giving (V-2)
- E. The idea that all gift is **grace** (V-3)

The Corinthian Solution ... Generosity was required!
Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-11

They were invited to learn to ...

- A. Give – even during **difficult** times.
(V-1-3A)
- B. View giving as a **privilege** (V-3B-5)
- C. See giving as an expression of their love for God and part of a lifestyle of **worship** (V-6-7)
- D. Esteem **Jesus** as the benchmark for their sacrificial giving (V-8-9)
- E. To adopt a 'follow-through' mentality as they gave from their assigned income (V-10-12)
- F. To give willingly and **cheerfully** (2 Corinthians 9:7)