

Stewardship: Motives of the Heart
Lesson #9 Offerings of Gratitude

Memory Verse **Get Scriptures to read**

John 3:16 (NKJV) *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.*

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke 1 out of every 6 verses deals with money. Of the 29 parables Christ told, 16 deal with a person and his money.

Jesus talks about money 5 times more than any other subject.

Luke 11:13 (NKJV) *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!*"

“Where Your Treasure Is”

Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV) *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

***Hebrews 10:34** (NKJV) *for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.*

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV) *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV) *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Stewards of the Grace of God

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Our Best Offering

We Give as an act of worship.

After a large Christian youth gathering, the offering was being counted. At the bottom of the offering, the counters found a picture of a teenage girl. They all assumed some boy had taken a girl's wallet, taken out the picture and thrown it in the offering basket as a practical joke. That's the kind of thing teenagers sometimes do. Then someone turned the picture over. There was something written on the back. "I have nothing to give, but I give myself."

***Exodus 25:2** *"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.*

Matthew 2:11 (NKJV) *And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

2 Corinthians 9:6, 7 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.***

Cheerful Giving

A mother wanting to teach her daughter a moral lesson gave the little girl a quarter and a dollar for church "Put whichever one you want in the collection plate and keep the other for yourself," she told the girl. On leaving the church, the mother asked her which she had given. "Well," said the little girl, "I was going to give the dollar, but just before the collection the pastor said that we should all be cheerful givers. I knew I'd be a lot more cheerful if I gave the quarter, so I did."

Exodus 34:26 (NKJV) *“The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God.*

Proverbs 3:9, 10 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Luke 7:37–47 (NKJV) ³⁷ And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." ⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

The Motives of the Heart

Naaman The Leper

2 Kings 5:14–15 (NKJV) So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. ¹⁵ And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

Psalms 116:12–13 (NKJV) What shall I render to the Lord For all His benefits toward me? ¹³ I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.

***Proverbs 11:25** The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

- Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving. - Peter Marshall.
- **Multiplication through subtraction.**
- We make a living by what we get out of life, but we make a life by what we give.
- **Deuteronomy 16:17** "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.
- He who gives what he would readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice.
- If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving. - Mother Teresa.
- I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. -C.S. Lewis.
- **Philippians 4: 19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled. -- Victor Hugo

The Experience of Giving

1 Chr 29:13, 14 "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.

- Sadie Sieker, who served for many years as a house-parent for missionary children in the Philippines loved books. Though she gladly loaned out some, others she treasured in a footlocker under her bed. One quiet night, Sadie heard a faint gnawing sound. After searching all around her room, she discovered that the noise was coming from her footlocker. When she opened it, she found nothing but an enormous pile of dust. All the books she had kept to herself had been lost to termites. What we give away, we keep. What we hoard, we lose.
- **Proverbs 11:24** There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.

Judas sold the Savior for silver and lost both.

- I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. - Luther