

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson
The Harmony Of The Gospels
Part 33,
Matthew Chapter 6, 1 Chronicles 29
“To Set My Affection”

In the Book of 1 Chronicles, King David is before all the people of Israel and instructing them on how they should help his son Solomon build and prepare the Temple for the Lord, for worship...

1 Chronicles 29

1 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: “... the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.

2 Now for the house of my God **I have prepared with all my might**: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

3 Moreover, because **I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God**, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, **my own special treasure** of gold and silver:

6 Then **the leaders** of the fathers’ houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, **offered willingly**.

7 **They gave for the work of the house of God** five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

8 And **whoever had precious stones gave them** to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 Then **the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly**, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

10 **Therefore David blessed the LORD** before all the assembly; and David said:

“Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.

12 Both riches and honor come from You,
And You reign over all.
In Your hand is power and might;
In Your hand it is to make great
And to give strength to all.

13 “Now therefore, our God,
We thank You

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

And praise Your glorious name.

14 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.

15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You,
As were all our fathers;
Our days on earth are as a shadow,
And without hope.

16 “O LORD our God, **all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house** for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.

17 I know also, my God, **that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.**

18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.

20 Then David said to all the assembly, “**Now bless the LORD your God.**” So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.

21 And **they made sacrifices to the LORD** and offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the next day: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

22 So **they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day.**

17 I **know also, my God, that You test the heart** and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

David’s concern for himself and for all of the people, is that they would set their affections upon the Lord so fully, that their entire life would be one of giving back to Him.

☞ **Verse 2:** “I have prepared with all my might”.

☞ **Verse 3:** “I have set my affection on the house of my God”. “I have given to the house of my God”.

☞ **Verse 9:** “*The people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly.*”

☞ **Verse 17:** “*You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness*”, “*in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things*”

☞ **Verse 22:** *So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day*”

In Matthew chapter 6 this morning in our study of the 4 Gospels, Jesus begins to deal with some important heart issues: **Giving, Prayer and Fasting.**

☞ **Jesus is also concerned** that when we do these 3 things, we would set our affections so fully upon Him that our entire life would be dedicated to giving back to Him.

Matthew 6

1 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly

- ☞ **Jesus is constantly searching** our hearts to see “**Why**” we do the things we do for Him.
- ☞ **Jesus is also interested** in “**How**” we do the things we do for Him.

One of the tests for us when we are searching our hearts as to why we give to the Lord, Why we Pray, and why we fast, is “*How does the fact that other people are watching us effect the way that we do these things?*”

In other words, If I know that someone is watching me when I give, pray or fast, do I do it differently? For most people, the answer would be YES!

- ☞ **For the past 10 years** that I have been the Senior Pastor here at Calvary Chapel Winslow and also the 6 years I was also pastoring Calvary Chapel Holbrook, I have been under tremendous pressure from Christians to change the way that we receive the Tithes and offerings of the people.

If you have been here awhile, you have noticed that we do not pass a collection plate to receive your tithes and offerings.

- ☞ **We have placed a box** at the back of the sanctuary and we trust the Lord to provide for all the needs of this church by your placing your tithes and offerings in that box.
- ☞ **New people** that have come to our church have asked me why we “*Don’t do it like most other churches, and pass the plate?*”

I have explained to them that I personally look to the Lord to provide all that we need here for the church and I will not try to manipulate the people to give more or to give at all.

David said in 1 Chronicles 29:

1 Chronicles 29

2 Now for the house of my God **I have prepared with all my might**: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

3 Moreover, because **I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God**, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, **my own special treasure** of gold and silver:

9 Then **the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly**, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

When people are coerced into giving to the Lord, or they are made to feel pressure to give by guilt or intimidation, then the offerings are not given WILLINGLY.

- ☞ **Personally**, I would rather close this building up or sell it and start Bible study in my house, before I will ever start to influence your giving to the Lord my manipulation or intimidation.

When people say that we need to “**pass the plate or teach more on tithing**”, what they are really saying is that we need to influence people to give more by creating an atmosphere where they feel they have to give more.

Years ago a Christian marketing company called me to try and sell me a program that would show me ways that we could increase the giving of our people.

- ☞ **I told them** that we do not ever ask for money from the people, we just trust the Lord and he provides for us every month.
- ☞ **She said:** “*Oh I understand that, but...and I cut her off and said: “No there is no BUT there, we just trust the Lord and He Always provides for us.”*”

I have been here 10 years, and the Lord has not failed to provide for us even one month since I have been here, and we have never taken up an offering by asking you for money or passing a plate.

That sounds to me like the Lord has been faithful and done what He promised He would do!

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus

As the pastor of this little church, my obligation to all of you and to the Lord, is to teach you what the Bible says about Giving, as we come across it in our verse by verse study of the entire Bible.

- ☞ **That is why** Calvary Chapel does not teach all “**Topical Studies**”, because it tends to create an atmosphere where the pastor will teach on the subjects that are bugging him about the congregation.
- ☞ **If we just teach through the Bible** verse by verse, then we will not be teaching what we want to, we will be teaching what the Lord wants as He takes us through the entire Bible verse by verse.

This morning we are in Matthew chapter 6 in the Harmony of the Gospels, where Jesus addresses the subject of giving, so I will teach on that subject.

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

- ☞ **If a few months go by** and you wonder why I never teach on tithing, pick up this CD and listen to it again, or wait till the next time we get to a place in the Bible where it discussed tithing.

If you have been looking at the slide background this morning and wondering how that applies to this study, this next story will clear this up...

A man died and went to heaven.

Of course, he was met by Peter who led him down the golden streets.

They walked past mansions after beautiful mansion until they came to a beautiful meadow where they stopped in front of a shack.

Peter said: "This house is yours..."

The man asked Peter why he got a shack when there were so many mansions around there that he could live in.

Peter replied, "*Hey man, I did the best I could with the money you sent us.*"

Matthew 6

1 "take heed that you do not do your **charitable deeds** before men, **to be seen** by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your father in heaven.

There is a little hint here by Jesus of the human heart in regards to giving or even serving the Lord.

"Our heart loves the attention of men..."

- ☞ **There is just something** in us that loves it when someone notices that we do something for the Lord.
- ☞ **I get a kick** out of the look on a persons face when they put their tithe check in the box and I am standing there to see it.
- ☞ **More importantly** than the fact that I saw you put your check in the Box, Jesus is always here and He sees what we put into HIS Box.

Mark 12:41

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury

When we walk into the sanctuary, Jesus is sitting there by the tithe box and he watches what we put in...

- ☞ **It doesn't matter** if I or someone else noticed that you tithed.
- ☞ **It matters that He sees** if we give and that we know that all our money all came from Him and we owe the first 10 percent to Him, **it is His, not ours...**

Jesus said “Be careful to do your service to Him so that people see you...”

Matthew 6

2 "therefore, **when you do a charitable deed**, do not **sound a trumpet** before you as **the hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward**.

When one of the Pharisees was going to give to the Lord, often they would hire a group of trumpet or Shofar blowers to sound their Shofar's in the street.

Everyone would gather around to see what the blowing of the trumpet was for

- ☞ **Then someone** with a loud voice would proclaim: *“The humble servant of the Lord Zechariah will not give his offering to the poor...”*
- ☞ **Then the crowd would say**, *“Oh isn't that wonderful, Zechariah is so generous...”*

Jesus said that if we do anything for Him so that people will notice us, we have lost our reward.

- ☞ **When we teach a Bible study**, we are not there to be heard by the people or admired, we are there to share the Word of God and give glory to Jesus.
- ☞ **When we participate in the Worship team**, we are not performing for the people, or there to be seen by the people and applauded by the people for our talent..
- ☞ **We are there to be completely transparent** and not even be seen. We are to bring people into the presence of God and let them see Jesus so they can worship Him.

When we serve in the children's or youth ministry, we are representing what Jesus is like to these precious kids.

- ☞ **It is the highest honor** and privilege to be able to serve children, Jesus said.

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for **of such is the kingdom of heaven**.”

Matthew 18:10

“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven **their angels always see the face of My Father** who is in heaven.

Why does Jesus hold the serving of children so high?

- ☞ **Because they have the kind of heart necessary** to receive the simplicity of His love and obtain eternal life.
- ☞ **Jesus said** that unless we are humble like a little child and are as teachable and receptive as a little child, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:15

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

- ⊕ **Because children** are so easily influenced for good or bad, those that seek to influence them for Jesus Christ are the highest of Jesus servants.
- ⊕ **I believe** that there is a very special place in heaven for those who have dedicated themselves to teaching our children about Jesus.

When we seek the flattery of people for our service to Jesus, in whatever we do, we already have our reward and there will be no reward from Him.

- ⊕ **But if we give our finances**, our time, our love and our service to other people for Jesus, so that He get's Glory and in hopes that no one notices us, then our reward in heaven is great.

In verse 2 Jesus says “When you give...” not “if you give”.

- ⊕ **Giving is not an option** for the Christian.
- ⊕ **The reason** giving is so important is because it is tied to our heart.
- ⊕ **Jesus knows** if the area of finances belongs to him, then everything else will follow.
- ⊕ **If Jesus is not Lord of your finances**, If He IS NOT the first one we pay, then everything else will be out of sync also.

In verses 3 and 4 Jesus tells us “how” we should give:

Matthew

3 "but **when (NOT IF) you do a charitable deed**, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 "**that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your father who sees in secret will himself reward you openly.**

In verse 2 Jesus tells us how we are **not to give**, to be seen, here we see the correct way to give:

- ⊕ *“Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...”* This is called a **“Hyperbole”** it is an “Extreme example”

Hyperbole:

“A deliberate and obvious exaggeration used for effect, for example, “I could eat a million of these”

- ⊕ **The idea here** is that the reason why we give to the Lord or to other people should be pure and no one should know how much you gave or when you gave.
- ⊕ **Giving is such a tremendous privilege** because of what it does to our own heart.
- ⊕ **When we give it should be in total secrecy** so that no one knows how much we gave or when we gave.

The Harmony of the Gospels Bible Commentary by Rob Robinson

- ☞ **It is Okay** to pay by check or receive a receipt for what you gave so that you can receive a deduction on your income tax return.
- ☞ **The person who gives in secrecy** will receive a reward from the Father, something of far greater value and longer lasting than anything we could experience on this earth

Here are a few answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about tithing.

- ☞ **The Tithe** is taught in both the Old and new Testament and it is first 10 percent before taxes are deducted.

Leviticus 27:30

And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 14:22

“You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.

Tithing is not just an Old Testament commandment because it was done even before the Law was given in the Old Testament

Genesis 14:17-20 Abraham offered to Melchizedek a tenth of all he had, before the Law of tithing was ever given to Moses.

Genesis 14:20

And Abraham gave him a tithe of all...

The tithe is taught extensively in the New Testament.

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These (Giving the Tithe) you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:7

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

The point of tithing is that it belongs to the Lord and if we are not tithing now, we need to start today...

☞ **If you cannot start with 10 percent**, start with a smaller amount and add to it over time.

John D. Rockefeller One of the richest Americans in history, the founder of the Standard Oil Company said this:

"I never would have been able to tithe 100,000 on the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed the first 15 cents on my first salary, which was \$1.50 per week." — **John D. Rockefeller, Sr. (1839-1937), American industrialist and philanthropist**

If we will not tithe, it is a sure sign that our life is not yet surrendered to Jesus Christ.

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

So, for those who have asked me over and over why I never teach on Tithing, this entire study should satisfy your need for teaching on the subject.

☞ **For the rest of us**, don't worry I am not going to start passing the plate and begging you for your money.

A very rich man decided that when he died he was not going to leave his wealth behind here on earth, he would take it with him.

So he placed all his money in the attic immediately above his bed.

The idea was that when he died, as he passed through the attic on his way to heaven, he would grab the money and take it with him.

Well the man did eventually die in his bed as he had planned.

A few days later his wife decided to go and check to see if he really had managed to take his money with him.

So up to the attic she went, and the money was still there.

"The silly fool" his wife said, "I told him to put it in the cellar".

Most of all, that we would understand this morning that this whole issue of Tithing should be all about what David proclaimed to us at the beginning of this study in the Book of 1 Chronicles:

1 Chronicles 29

3 Moreover, because **I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God**, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, **my own special treasure** of gold and silver:

Where is your affection set this morning?

Is it in making your heart right towards your God?

- ☞ **Is it in giving to Him** that which is rightfully His?
- ☞ **Is it in serving Jesus** with sincerity and desiring that He be glorified and lifted up and not yourself?
- ☞ **Are there some changes** that the Lord needs to make in those areas we talked about this morning?