

Stewardship Forum

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Stewardship Tools for Leaders : Sermon Library

Title: Who is Watching Your Giving?

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Read: Mark 12:41-44

1 – Do you know that God watches your giving?

Mark 12:41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury.

Matt 6:20 Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...

Ezra 2:68-69^{TLB} Some of the leaders were able to give generously toward the rebuilding of the Temple, and each gave as much as he could. The total value of their gifts amounted to \$300,000 of gold, \$170,000 of silver, and 100 robes for the priests.

2 – Do you know that you are to give to God according to your ability?

Mark 12:41 Many rich people threw in large amounts.

Deut 16:17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

Acts 11:29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea.

Ex 35:29, 36:3-7 Men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work...All the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done." Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: "No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

2 Chron 31:6-10 The men...brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps...When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed his people Israel. Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; and Azariah the chief priest...answered, "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the

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LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over."

2 Chron 24:10-13 All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly (for temple repairs), dropping them into the chest until it was full. Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money...(the leaders) would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money. The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD...The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them.

3 – Do you know that giving to God in the hard times is a real test of your faith?

Mark 12:42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

2 Cor 8:2-5 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

4 – Do you realize that your giving is a test of your trustworthiness and/or your trust in God?

Mark 12:43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-all she had to live on."

About the Author - Brian Kluth is a national and international speaker and writer. He is also a church pastor and the founder of Kingdom Seekers- a ministry dedicated to advancing Biblical generosity through inspirational preaching, leadership training seminars, writing, resources and the media. Brian's written materials have been distributed to more than 350,000 Christian leaders in more than 100 countries. For additional materials or to contact Brian, email: brian@kluth.org