

Biblical Generosity and Tithing

December 13, 2015

Matthew 6:9-13

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 **Give us this day our daily bread.**

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD (*not tomorrow's bread*)

DAILY (*epiousios*) *the bread of our necessity, subsistence, on each day, what is needful for today (not tomorrow)*

WE CAN AND MUST TRUST GOD WITH TOMORROW

Exodus 16:4

"Then the LORD said to Moses, **"Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."**

*Daily bread necessitates the exercise of daily trust.
In the surplus of abundance, faith is not exercised and grows weak.*

Daily bread teaches us of our utter dependence upon God for our very next breath, heartbeat and sustenance.

Our culture and the world system teaches us of pride and independence, that we provide for ourselves and for our future - we are our own "god".

Daily bread teaches us of God's limitless love, His incomprehensible omniscience, His unfailing faithfulness, His minute involvement.

Daily bread teaches us that we can trust God with tomorrow; no need to worry or fear.

Daily bread teaches us that what we store and provide for tomorrow can and will fail, but faith in God for tomorrow will never fail.

Exodus 16:14–21

14 And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground.

15 When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

16 This is what the LORD has commanded: **'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'** "

- 17 And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.
 18 But when they measured it with an omer, **whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack**. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.
 19 And Moses said to them, "**Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.**"
 20 **But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.**
 21 **Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.**

THE ETERNAL DANGER OF PROSPERITY

Deuteronomy 8:7–20 ESV

- 7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills,
 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey,
 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.
 10 **And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.**
 11 **TAKE CARE LEST YOU FORGET THE LORD YOUR GOD BY NOT KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS AND HIS RULES AND HIS STATUTES, WHICH I COMMAND YOU TODAY,**
 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,
 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,
 14 **THEN YOUR HEART BE LIFTED UP, AND YOU FORGET THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE HOUSE OF SLAVERY,**
 15 who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock,
 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.
 17 **BEWARE LEST YOU SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'MY POWER AND THE MIGHT OF MY HAND HAVE GOTTEN ME THIS WEALTH.**

PROSPERITY breeds INDEPENDENCE
("I can take care of myself")
and PRIDE
("I'm in control")
resulting in REBELLION
("I'm the master of my life").

- 18 **You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**
 19 **And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.**

20 Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

GOD'S KINGDOM OF PROVISION VERSUS THE WORLD'S KINGDOM OF FINANCE

Matthew 6:24–34 ESV

24 **No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.** You cannot serve God and money.

In the realm of sustenance and money, you live in one of two kingdoms, you have one of two masters. Your heart is either dominated by the Lordship of your Heavenly Provider, or the lordship of money.

25 **Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?**

Anxiousness, worry and fear are the first and foremost indicators that your heart is imprisoned by the lordship of money, separated from the peace and security of the Lordship of Jesus.

26 **Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?**

27 **And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?**

28 **And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,**

29 **yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

30 **But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

31 **Therefore do not be anxious,** saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 **For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.**

33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

34 **Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow,** for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Signs we are under the lordship of money:

1. Covetousness and Greed
2. Worry and Fear
3. Obsession and Preoccupation
4. Trust and Security
5. Plans and Strategies
6. Self-Sufficiency and Pride

GOD CALLS US TO TEST HIM

Malachi 3:8–12

8 **Will a man rob God?** Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' **In tithes and offerings.**

9 **"You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"**

10 **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse**, so that there may be food in My house, and **test Me now in this**, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not **open for you the windows of heaven** and **pour out for you a blessing until it overflows**.

11 **Then I will rebuke the devourer for you**, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the LORD of hosts.

12 "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

Tithing and the New Testament

1. Nowhere in the New Testament is the Christian commanded or instructed to tithe.
2. Nowhere in the New Testament is the commandment to tithe rescinded.
3. Jesus clearly states that as New Testament believers our obedience is to far surpass the obedience of Old Testament believers. (Read Matthew 5)
4. As new creations possessing the heart transformation of regeneration, should we give by the compulsion of a rule and a formula, or should we give with glad hearts rejoicing in the generosity of our Lord's salvation?

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6–11

6 Now this I say, **he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully**.

7 Each one must do just as he has **purposed** (*proaireomai* - to choose for one's self) in his heart, **not grudgingly or under compulsion** (*ananke* - constraint, necessity, argument), for **God loves a cheerful giver**.

8 And **God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed**;

9 as it is written, "**HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER**."

10 Now **He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness**;

11 you will be **enriched in everything for all liberality**, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY is your faith in action that God is your source. Without faith in God as our Source, giving is very difficult. In the book of Malachi 3 God says to put Him to the test with our giving.

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY is leaving this world system of finance and operating in God's kingdom of provision.

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY is the conviction that you are blessed to give, not blessed to keep.

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY is giving by faith, not by a formula of percentage. If we give by faith the percentage will be met and more (though there is nothing wrong with using the percentage as a baseline).

BIBLICAL GENEROSITY makes the formula of tithing unnecessary.

Luke 12:16-21 NAS

16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive.

17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, **'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'**

18 "Then he said, **'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

19 **'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."**

20 "But God said to him, **'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'**

21 **"So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."**

Philippians 4:10–20 ESV

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

11 **Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.**

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

13 **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

14 **Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.**

15 **And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.**

16 **Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.**

17 **Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.**

18 **I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.**

19 **And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.