

FREELY GIVE

Matthew 5:38-42 NIV - "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

DESCRIPTION

When Jesus sent His disciples out to proclaim the Kingdom of God, He reminded them that they had received from Him without cost. As such, they must give the gift of salvation and all of its benefits like healing, deliverance, and cleansing from sin for free.

God so loved the world that He GAVE His Son. Jesus so loved the world that He GAVE His life. Giving is not just about money. We can be generous with our time, service, counsel, forgiveness, and all of our possessions.

Giving can be a powerful way of connecting with people who do not yet know Jesus. However, when we charge for ministry or evangelism the integrity of the Gospel message is compromised.

Practicing Freely Give is about revealing the character of God through generosity so that others can come to know Jesus.

CONSIDERATIONS

How does giving gifts draw people to us and give us the opportunity to tell them about Jesus?

How does generosity reflect the character of God?

Why is it important not to dilute the Gospel message with requests for money? How could appealing for money contradict or distort the Gospel?

Do you have an internal resistance to giving to the poor? What is it? How does this NOT fit with the Gospel message?



PURPOSE:

To share generously in practical ways in order to reveal Christ.

To be a demonstration of the love of God.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Selfless, giving, love.

Increased willingness to share with others.

Greater confidence in sharing Jesus and the truth of His Kingdom with others.

Increase in being the light of the world to those who are in darkness.

PRAYER

Father, thank you that you gave your best and most valuable gift for me. Help me to give open-handedly to everyone who asks of me so that I can show your generosity and so that others may come to know you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PRACTICE

1. Ask the Lord highlight to you someone who has recently asked you for something. As you do, consider:
 - What did they ask you for?
 - Did you give it to them? Why or why not?
 - Are you willing to give it to them now? Why or why not?
 - What is God asking you to do for them? How could this open up a conversation about Jesus with them?
2. Ask the Lord highlight to you a person you would like to share Christ with. As you do, keep the following in mind:
 - What are their goals in life? How can you contribute to them in a godly way?
 - Is there anything they have asked of you? Have you done it? Are you willing to do it for God?
 - What is God asking you to do for them? How could this open up a conversation about Jesus with them?
3. Ask the Lord to highlight to you a person in need or a homeless person who is asking for help.
 - What do you have that you can give to them?
 - What things other than money can you give? (i.e water bottle, sandwich, winter coat, blanket, etc.)
 - What is God asking you to do for them? How could this open up a conversation about Jesus with them?
4. Do whatever the Lord tells you to do. Take the time to share Jesus with the people you are freely giving to.

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

John 3:16

Matthew 10:8

Luke 6:30

1 Corinthians 9:11

1 Corinthians 9:18

Isaiah 55:1-2

Acts 8:20

Revelation 21:6

Revelation 22:17

2 Corinthians 8:9

Deuteronomy
15:7, 10