

## A Lifestyle That Gives

### Developing A Heart With Issues

- Today – at Valley – we have developed many cultural lifestyles.
  - The **Word** – it's importance
  - **Discipleship**
  - **Worship**
  - **Healing** – Valley Community Church is **healed**.

Because we are healed, a culture of giving is **preeminent**

1. All of us must understand a giving lifestyle and or culture only happens by developing a **heart** of giving.

In Matthew 7:1-2. We learned 2 things:

- Judge not and you won't be **judged**.
- For with the **same** measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Then we found in Luke 6:37-38, Jesus added something to the context of Matthew 7:1-2

Matthew 7 – context was **judging**.

In Luke 6:38, most pastors teach about **money** – it's really just talking about **money**.

2. Jesus is speaking to the heart saying in addition, when you give, it's given back to you more.

- If you let Me change your heart and then you become a giver, with an attitude thinking, I know God multiplies what I give back to me, but I just want to give, I want to be a giver without expecting in return.

3. The reward Jesus is talking about is the right heart.

Question: How do we develop a kingdom heart becoming a giver?

Every one of us must first recognize it is a heart issue and God wants to do a work in our hearts.

Deuteronomy 15 lists some things we must do if we are going to give with a pure heart.

### **Deuteronomy 15:7**

- Notice if you harden your heart, you will shut your hand.

### **Deuteronomy 15:8**

If we are going to give willingly and not harden our hearts, we must do a few things.

A. First deal with a selfish heart.

### **Deuteronomy 15:9**

God calls selfishness – wickedness

The wicked thought would be – if I gave this to him, there wouldn't be enough time for him to pay it back.

Same principle – don't lend hoping for something in return.

Here is the second thing:

B. Deal with a **grieving** heart

### **Deuteronomy 15:10**

God will bless you in all your **works** and all to which you put your **hand**

4. God blesses you in all your work when you have a right **heart**.

- God blesses when we let Him **correct** and correctly develop our **hearts**

- So don't **grieve** about what you gave.

God is telling me:

- Selfishness attacks me **before** I give.
- Grieving attacks me **after** I give.

5. God is not concerned with what you **give**, but His concern is will you let Him **work** with your heart?

The reason why we grieve when we give or even lose money – is we think the money was **ours**.

The last 2 weeks, I showed you in scripture that the tithe belongs to God.

### **Leviticus 27:30**

Here is the finality of the revelation!

It **all** belongs to God.

- The tithe is what He **tests** our heart with.

Look at Psalm 24:1

### **Psalm 24:1**

6. **Everything** I have belongs to God and if God asks me for it, I don't **grieve**.

It's called **stewardship** and **ownership**.

7. God is the **Owner** and we are the **steward**.

The third thing:

- C. Develop a **generous** heart.

### **Deuteronomy 15:14**

Give **over** and **above** when you give.

Here is the fourth thing:

- D. Develop a **grateful** heart.

### **Deuteronomy 15:15**

8. If you're going to be a giver, you must **remember** where you came from and be **grateful**.
9. When it comes to giving, you used to be a **slave**, so let God build **gratitude** in your heart.

If you allow God to:

- Deal with your **heart**
- Deal with **selfishness**
- Deal with **grief**
- Develop **generosity**
- Develop **gratitude**

Luke 6:38 is not the **motive** for giving – “Give and it will be given to you” – but it is the **reward**.

Giving is why we are **living**.