

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 4

Extravagant Generosity

"And He was saying to them, 'Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides. For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.'"

Mark 4: 24-25 NASB

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

In the fourth chapter of Mark, we find Jesus doing what He so often did – teaching! The group listening to Him had grown so large that Jesus got into a boat and launched out as He continued to teach from the boat. Using parables to teach about some principals of life, Jesus addressed faithfulness, trust, witnessing, sowing and reaping and getting into the boat with Him. Our focal verses remind us of the authority of the One doing the teaching. Whereas the words may sound somewhat hard or harsh coming from a loving, kind and gentle person, the truths of the words are just that—the truth. Jesus gives a foundational warning to us when He says “Take care what you listen to.”

In our time of there being so many experts, views and opinions that focus on self-interest, we would do well to remember that there is only One who is the absolute truth. Because He is that truth, we can be certain that we will reap the attitudes, values, efforts and gifting that He has allowed us to establish for our life-style. Should we decide to establish some “negative” attitudes and actions, we can expect God to do some pruning, loping and negating in our lives.

It is God’s love, power, promise and provision that allows His children to experience extravagant generosity. God’s children don’t give with the purpose

to prime the pump. That is an unholy attitude based on the motivation of giving in order to get. This is the type of giver that Jesus refers to in the last part of verse 25. This person may be basing his giving on the question “How much do I have to give?” to determine the level of giving.

But, for the giver with a Godly commitment, giving is guided by the question “How much can I give?” This is the situation that Paul described in II Corinthians 8 when the Gentile-based churches gave to support the Jewish-based church in Jerusalem. In verse 5, Paul reported “they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.” Giving motivated by Godly love is rewarded by God as He sees fit.

As we celebrate the Lenten season contemplating the resurrection and gift of Christ, let us seek His direction in how we should support the ministry of Morningstar. In Charles Sheldon’s book “In His Steps” written in 1896, Christians were challenged to live their lives guided by the question “What would Jesus do?” Will we do the same?

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

As you pray and sacrifice throughout this Lenten Journey, will you take this opportunity to pay forward in generosity a gift of at least \$1 per day throughout the 40 days for the Children of Morningstar? It is a privilege and a blessing to give as we all look forward to Easter and the Resurrection.

[Donate Now](#)

Contributor

“Wank” Davis, Saint Simons Island, Georgia, is a faithful supporter of the Community of the Golden Isles, retired from the United Community Bank on SSI and has been active in teaching a group of men at His Ministries and helps distribute food at Manna House in downtown Brunswick. Wank is also dedicated to the next generation in his contributions of time and service to the Children of Morningstar.

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