



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Giving to God Series, Lesson 28

Lesson Title: Give to God – By Giving to Others

Take Home Point: We give to God by giving to others.

Warm-Up:

It is interesting to contemplate the perspectives and habits of people in their giving. While my experience is limited to a tiny portion of humanity, I'm sure these traits are not uncommon. For example, I have never known someone who was generous when they had very little to become less generous when they had more to give. The reverse seems true as well – stingy with little usually means stingy with much. Many people want their gifts publicly acknowledged, others want only to remain anonymous. Some people by personality and upbringing have an extremely difficult time parting with any of their possessions, even though they know God wants them to give to others. And some are simply selfish, actually believing that what they have is their own, not acknowledging wealth (of whatever extent) to be a gift from God to be used in his name.

Read: Matthew 25:31-40

Observation (What happened?):

When was the kingdom prepared for those who gave to others?

What kinds of gifts were given that Jesus mentions?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus told this account of the future to his audience?

Why didn't Jesus mention non-physical gifts such as love?

Insight:

If you kept reading past verse 40, you saw a basic truth of God's plan in the contrast between the destinations of those who give and those who don't. Those who give are welcomed into a kingdom specifically prepared for them. Those who do not give are relegated to a place that was never intended for human souls to inhabit. The eternal fire was only meant for the devil and his angels, but now becomes the final location for all who reject God. He never intended for human souls to be eternally separated from him. And isn't it interesting that Jesus only lists physical needs being met? If conservative religious leaders in our country compiled that list today, what do you think would be on it? A list of basic human needs, or would it be oriented toward issues of a "spiritual nature" or even political goals? This account is a good reminder that God recognizes all needs and the eternal value of meeting them in his name. I suspect we will be surprised in heaven by the acts of giving God publicly recognizes. I'm sure there will be many stories told that please and honor him about giving that no one noticed this side of heaven.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

List all the different ways you give to meet the needs of others. Take a moment to thank God you have the means to do so.

Pray for the children in your small group to develop kind hearts that seek to meet others' needs.

Kingdom Quest year 2