

Essentials of Discipleship

Chapter 11 – The Ministry of Giving

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Resource: Essentials of Discipleship by Francis Cosgrove published by Roper Press in 1988.

This short 12 chapter book outlines eleven essentials of what a disciple of Jesus Christ is and how each disciple should become a disciple-making disciple. These study guides offer an outline of the book with some questions to be used in reviewing and discussing the content. Each student will need to obtain and read the book as well. After the initial chapters titled: What is a Disciple? & The Disciple is a Learner; the author reviews the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is the umbrella for the remaining nine essentials or characteristics of a disciple.

- I. INTRODUCTION –EOD #10: A disciple gives regularly and honors God with his or her finances.
 - A. Summary (from Chapter 1):

The disciple must be giving to the Lord’s work. That is – honoring God with our money. (In my opinion, some may give more of their time, which is money, especially if they cannot generate income from their time). In the Old Testament, God required a tithe (10%). It can be assumed that if we do not honor God with our money (or time vs. money), we may be letting Satan, the enemy, use it for his evil purposes. The Bible speaks of contributing to the needs of your instructor who is helping you grow spiritually (Galatians 6:6).
 - B. Scriptures:
 1. Haggai 1:6-9 _____
 2. Malachi 3:10-11 _____
 3. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 _____
 4. 2 Corinthians 8:9 _____
 5. Philemon 14 _____

Note: Good Memory Verse is Philippians 4:19
 - C. Introductory Points – Cosgrove says that giving is a _____ decision as we learn to turn over control of our money to Christ. Bottom line is that giving is also evidence of our _____ for His redemption (payment for our sins)
- II. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN HEAVEN - Key points:
 1. What did Jesus mean by saying we are to store up treasures in heaven? (Matthew 6:19-20)
 2. How do we invest our treasures in heaven? (Mark 10:21)
 3. Paul spoke of people and churches “adding credits to your spiritual account”. How is that done?
 4. Cosgrove says, “By giving we show our righteousness” (acting rightly in terms of giving). We do this when we _____ the _____ of God.
- III. THE BLESSINGS OF GIVING
 1. What is a double blessing? (The _____ and the _____ rejoice over a generous gift.)
 2. Why do pastors and missionaries ask for prayers and financial support? Who benefits?
 3. Who benefited when David asked the people to help build the Temple?
 - A. God will Supply our Need
 1. God promises to meet our needs (spiritual, physical and financial).
 2. Cosgrove says that if a Christian is not honoring God with his income (or time if he has no income), he will experience financial difficulties. Have you seen this in your own life or in others?
 3. As a home missionary (in US) raising support, I (Ron) have several stories about the unique provisions offered just at the right time. This builds our faith in God as the Provider and in His economy.

B. God Gives as we Have Given

1. What is the privilege found in Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6?
2. The author says, "We cannot determine the _____ God's blessings will take but we can determine the _____ of God's blessings by our giving. Explain.

C. God Will Provide Abundantly

1. God said He cannot be out given? He wants us to test Him in this matter. (Malachi 3:10-11)
2. Proverbs 11:24-25 says, "A generous man will _____. He who _____ others will himself be _____."
3. Proverbs 3:9-10 says that if we give of our firstfruits (that is make giving the first priority), then our barns will be overflowing. What does this mean when most of us today don't own a barn?
4. Other blessings may include _____, _____, _____, singleness of heart, _____ and growth in numbers. (Acts 2:44-47)

IV. HOW SHOULD WE GIVE? Cosgrove says we are to give:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

Question: Which one of these is your #1 priority in your giving? #_____

V. TO WHOM SHOULD WE GIVE? Key points:

1. God wants us to give to the _____.
2. Does it help to simply wish those with needs to be well, warm and fed? _____ (James 2:15-16)
3. What is one of the reasons to work? Answer: That we may have something to _____ with _____
_____. (Ephesians 4:28)
4. Remember the needy are all around us at all times. This could be you or me at times.
5. Supporting the people of God who work for the Lord full-time is throughout the Scriptures.
6. Paul told the Galatians (6:6) that we are to support _____ us.
7. Cosgrove says that the starting point in our giving must be the local _____. This is because you are receiving from them the Word of God. They are feeding you spiritually.
8. Since God's work is being done by and through various Christian organizations (like the Navigators), it is your responsibility to give them your support (prayers and funds) as well. I (Ron), have received this kind of support for many years which permits me the freedom to serve where and when God leads.

VI. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON GIVING

- A. Things to consider to strengthen your giving:
1. Start with 11% - not just 10%. That is, don't be legalistic. Give what you are able. Just be generous.
 2. Give to the Lord first – that is, His Church. That is churches that preach and teach the Gospel.
 3. Give _____.
 4. Make extra gifts. Support your local church or churches. Support organizations, missionaries, causes, etc. Why should we support first your local church?
 5. Honor your pledges. What is suggested if the level of your giving falls and you are unable to make your commitments? Who should you notify and when? Why is this important? (Think of budgeted expenses).

VII. CONCLUSION: Giving is a privilege and an _____ for Christian disciples. God will bless what we give joyfully. We are storing up _____ in heaven which is important eternally especially when we stand before Jesus Christ one day.