

## **A MATTER OF TRUST**

### **THE BLESSINGS OF FIRST MILES McPHERSON / January 22, 2017**

**THIS WEEK:** Pastor Miles talked about the blessings of first fruits. He explained that giving first to God is a sign of trust. God must be first. So often we give lip service to God about our first fruits but we live with other priorities; jobs, kids, time, cars, clothes etc. God wants us to give Him the supreme place in our lives. When we put God's house above ourselves, He is pleased and glorified, His work gets done, and He truly blesses us.

#### **Opening Discussion - Study Questions:**

How can we align our priorities to God's?

In what three areas can we give back to God and others?

What does the priority of our giving demonstrate?

What does the level of our personal sacrifice in our giving demonstrate?

Planning in advance to give is the difference between an offering being holy (set aside) and just checking off the box, or making us feel good. What are some examples of pre-planned giving?

#### **Group Activity - Putting Knowledge Into Action:**

Make a list of some of the reasons why we don't give, serve, or sacrifice?

Give examples of how the following can be used for or given to God or others.

Things you have in storage, your cell phone, your computer, your lawn mower, your oven, your bathroom, your college degree, your voice.

Now bounce some ideas or examples around the group of how the principle of first fruits giving could apply to our time, talents, and treasure.

What are some practical ways that we can use to prioritize our giving?

#### **Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:**

Make a list of how God has blessed you in each of the following areas: Time, Talent (skill sets, education, spiritual gifting), Treasure (resources, stuff, finances etc.)

The belief that "We are good people because God knows our heart" shouldn't be a comfort to us but a matter of great concern. From the list you just completed above give examples from each area where you have been, or are giving to God and others.

Think back on the greatest personal sacrifice you ever voluntarily made for God or

someone else. **1.** How did you feel before the sacrifice? **2.** Shortly after? **3.** Much later? **4.** Would you do it again? **5.** Will you do it again? **6.** Are you working on a plan to give like that again?

### **Taking it Home - Application:**

What do you have that you could give to God or someone in need this week?  
What do you have that you will give to God or someone in need this week?  
Malachi 3:10 challenges us to test God in our giving: Give Him some of your time, talent, or treasure this week and hold God to His word. To "pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Look for what He does that is more than you have need for. Then give again. You can never out give God!

### **BONUS VIDEO: Robert Morris on the principal of first fruits giving:**

<http://www.sdrock.com/messages/2015-05-03/>

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 6:38 "give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

### **Trivia: Giving is important to God:**

Verses on Giving:

94 [https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=giving&qs\\_version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=giving&qs_version=ESV)

Verses on Offering: 748

[https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=offering&qs\\_version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=offering&qs_version=ESV)

Verses on Tithing 35:

[https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=tithe&qs\\_version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=tithe&qs_version=ESV)

Verses on Money: 129

[https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=money&qs\\_version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=money&qs_version=ESV)

Verses on Sacrifice: 285

[https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=sacrifice&qs\\_version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=sacrifice&qs_version=ESV)

Verses on Property: 38 Alms: 8 Wages: 34 Wealth: 84 Riches: 62 Fortune: 38 Gold: 433 Silver: 283 Verses on Giving: 1474

**LESSON QUOTE:** The way you act on, and think about giving speaks to what is most important in your life and who your God really is. M

**LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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