

Sept 13, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
When it comes to helping others, some people stop at nothing

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Service is working and giving,
And not regretting the cost;
It's knowing and understanding
That no good deed will be lost.
—Anon.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

(Prov 11:25 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Jul 15, 1995)

Series: THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COMES ALIVE

UNIT: Seeds of New Growth

NEXT WEEK

Witnessing to the Truth
(Acts 5:27-29, 33-42)

Sharing All Things Acts 4:34 - 5:10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us to recognize that giving and **Sharing All Things** are essential parts of the Christian life. The **study's aim** is to develop an attitude of giving and sharing whenever possible. The **study's application** is to establish a practice of giving and sharing with those in need.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Many people believe that preachers talk too much about money, yet giving is frequently mentioned in the Bible. Indeed, sharing is part and parcel of what it means to be a Christian. After all, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). This, of course, is the supreme example of giving and a model for all believers. As for those folks who complain about sermons on giving, they most likely feel that way because they know that they are not giving as they should. Obviously, there are ways to give in addition to sharing monetary gifts. We can give of our time and of our talents. But when we give money, it represents our time and our talents! A sometimes-overlooked issue related to giving is that some of us may substitute the giving of money for other forms of Christian service. This is especially true if we have plenty of money. The bottom line is that Christians need to be generous, sharing people. If we do not have a converted pocketbook, it reveals a serious spiritual defect.

The Christian community thrives only when each believer follows the biblical injunction to "esteem other better than themselves" and to "look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:3-4). The first lesson in this unit looked at how believers should pray for each other. Think of the last time someone, perhaps anonymously, gave you a substantial gift. How did you feel? You probably felt thankfulness to the Lord and a greater appreciation for your fellow believer. How do we feel when we give such a gift? Usually we sense a spirit of joy and thankfulness to be able to give. How do you think the Lord feels in such a situation? He probably experiences joy and satisfaction that His children are following His command. Whenever believers give and receive, they grow closer together, and the church grows. Believers today are not commanded to sell our homes and possessions to give to others the way the early church did. We are, however, to show the same spirit of selfless sharing that the early church demonstrated. What are some ways you can demonstrate this kind of sharing? If your church has a benevolence fund, you can regularly contribute to it. If you know of a need a fellow believer has, you can give that person your money, your possessions, or your time to help meet that need. Some Christians find it helpful to set aside a certain amount of money each month to have available when a need arises.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

GENEROUS GIVING (ACTS 4:34-37)

Needs identified (34)

Identify other's troubles

Identify lack of direction (Matt 20:6)

Identify need to know God (Acts 17:22-23)

Identify and help carry other's burdens (Gal 6:2)

Identify and help the oppressed and share with the poor (Isa 58:6-7)

Identify and bear with the failings of the weak (Rom 15:1)

Identify and help those who need it (1 Thes 5:14)

Identify through compassion for others

God has compassion on us so we can have compassion on others (2 Cor 1:3-4)

As God's chosen people, we should have compassion (Col 3:12)

We are commanded to be kind and compassionate (Eph 4:32)

Showing compassion confirms we have wisdom from God (James 3:17)

As a member of the body of Jesus, we should be sympathetic and compassionate (1 Pet 3:8)

Compassion is one of the building blocks of maturity in the faith (2 Pet 1:5-8)

Needs met (35)

Needs met through fear of the Lord (Ps 34:9)

Needs met through walking righteously (Isa 33:15-16)

Needs met through provisions by God (Jer 17:8)

Needs met through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

Needs met through God's deliverance and protection (Ps 41:1-3)

Needs met through God's favor (Ps 84:11)

Needs met through God's grace (2 Cor 9:8)

Encouragement given (36)

Encouragement by providing spiritual needs (1 Thess 3:10)

Encouragement by praying for one another (Col 4:12).

Encouragement by helping the weak and timid (1 Thess 5:14)

Encouragement because God encourages us so that we can encourage others (2 Thess 2:16-17).

Encouragement so that none are hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Heb 3:13).

Resources administered (37)

Resources administered of all that is needed (2 Cor 9:8)

Resources administered to do good works (Eph 2:10)

Resources administered to be generous (2 Cor 9:11)

Resources administered that come from God's hands (1 Chron 29:14)

SELFISH GIVING (ACTS 5:1-10)

Deceit planned (1-2)

Deceit planned will sometimes backfire and cause harm (Est 5:14)

Deceit planned even though there was a warning (Mic 2:1)

Deceit planned always causes dissension (Prov 6:14)

Those who plan deceit will not dwell in God's house (Ps 101:7)

Deceit comes from Satan (3-4)

Satan started his deception in the garden (Gen 3:13)

Satan deceives so that man will disobey God (1 Chron 21:1)

Satan prowls around looking for someone to deceive (1 Peter 5:8)

Satan is the father of deception (John 8:44)

We must keep vows to God (5-10)

When making a vow, we must keep it (Eccl 5:4)

We must never be slow about fulfilling our vows to God (Deut 23:21)

We must keep our oaths even when it hurts (Ps 15:2-4)

Never hastily or rashly give a vow (Prov 20:25)