

Discipleship 103

STEWARDSHIP & financial freedom

Lesson Three: Examples of Perfect Giving

Acts 10:37-38 You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing and all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38 teaches us that Christ “went around doing good.” As Christian stewards, we are called to be imitators of Christ.

Nowhere can we find more perfect models of stewardship than in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As you study this lesson, prayerfully consider how you can apply their examples to your life.

Stewardship of God the Father

- 1. Read John 3:16. What was God’s greatest gift to humankind?**

His beloved Son – His one and only Son

- 2. What else does God give us, according to Romans 2:4, 7 and 1 John 5:11?**

Romans 2:3-8 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God’s judgment when you do the same things? Don’t you see how wonderful, kind, tolerant and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you?

Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from sin? But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will judge everyone according to what have done. He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor ad immortality that God offers. But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who life for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.

1 John 5:10-12 All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified about His Son. And this is what God has testified; He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

This is God's declaration that Jesus was His Son at baptism and at his transfiguration therefore whoever believes in God's Son has eternal life

- 3. Read John 3:34, 10:10, and 14:16. What has the Father given us that enable us to live abundantly?**

John 3:33-35 Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment

Jesus had invited us to accept him by what he has done on the cross and when we believe his birth, death and resurrection; he give us the opportunity to have eternal life with Him.

10:10 The thief purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

The thief/Satan comes to take life while Jesus came to give His life so that we can have life and life more abundantly; eternal life

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

14:15-17 If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

As we learned last week, we live move and have our being and because the God, Holy Spirit presence is in us leading, guiding and directing us into all Spiritual truths. In Bible study Pastor talked about how the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. The more we learn and understand the Word of God the more of God's presence through the Holy Spirit is presence!!! Amen

4. List some characteristics of God's nature that make giving a priority in Him.

Write on the flipchart: Wisdom, Sovereign, Infinitude (no limits/boundaries, limitless) Holy, Omnipresent, Omnipotence, Omnisense, immutable, Grace, Mercy, Everlasting, Just, Love, Faithful, and Consistent

Stewardship of God the Son

1. List acts of Christ which indicate perfection in His stewardship, according to Philippians 2:5-8.

Phil. 2:4-9 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead he gave up his divine

privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminals death on a cross.

Humble, willing giving up his right to obey God, even to the cross, servant attitude (serve with love) Jesus shows us everything about God's character....

2. What was Christ's supreme purpose in life, according to John 6:38 and Hebrews 10:7?

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day.

His purpose was to do God's will; as like us as believers, we should seek to do His will and our own.

Hebrews 10:6-7 You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. Then I said, "Look, I have come to do your will. O God—as it is written about me in the scriptures

Jesus offered His body as a living sacrifice for our sins when the laws of the Old Testament no longer satisfied God as sacrifices. Until He had to give His only begotten Son who was the ultimate sacrifice

3. Read John 12:23-33

(A) As part of God's will for Jesus, what was involved (see verses 23, 27, 32, 33)?

John 12:23-33 ²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."

²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ ***Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.***

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ ***“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.*** ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

³² ***And I, when I am lifted up^[g] from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*** ³³ ***He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.***

Jesus’ crucifixion; as followers of Christ we too much die if doing so glorifies Christ.

Vs 27 He wanted the cup to be taken from Him because He knew that by taking on our sins, the sins of the world on His shoulders, then and only then, He would be separated from God the Father. Nevertheless, not my will but your will be done...

(B) In verse 24, Jesus uses the example of a grain of wheat that is planted in the earth. In what sense does a grain of wheat have to “die” to bring forth fruit?

Vs. 24 a necessary death had to take place, i.e., the sacrifice of Christ, His crucifixion, had to take place in order for Him to bear fruit meaning draw all men unto Him

(C) How does that apply to us (compare verse 25)?

Vs. 25 as we love Christ as believers, we too have to give up our lives to, follow His perfect example of giving, servanthood

(D) If, as a Christian, you are unwilling to make any sacrifice to reach others for Christ, to suffer any hardship, to face any self-denial, to suffer persecution, but instead you want everything to be comfortable, easy, and effortless, how will this affect your fruit-bearing?

As a Christian, we will not bear any fruit at all. We would not be living the example of Christ as the Perfect example of giving our lives as a sacrifice, sacrifice our lives as a sacrifice to glorify the Father and draw others to Him by our example.... How we live, walk, talk etc

4. List some characteristics of Christ's nature that make giving a priority with Him.

Unselfish, loving, caring, compassionate, giving, perfect example to man in the flesh

Stewardship of God the Holy Spirit

1. What are some duties the Holy Spirit performs as God's steward, as revealed in the following verses?

(A) John 16:7-11 – But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead you grieve because of what I've told you. But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

Convict the world of its sins and God's righteousness and judgment and calling it to repentance; if Jesus would not have done what he did, the Father's will, we would not have our sins taken away; revealing God's standards and judgment over Satan; the death burial and resurrection would not have taken place, therefore, no Good News, salvation etc.

(B) In What way does this convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit help us in evangelism? Convicts us to all Spiritual Truths about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It reveals the standards of who God is

(B)John 16:13 – When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth by. He will not speak on his own but will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, “The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.”

As we learned in Bible Study; it's better to have the Jesus inside me by way of the Holy Spirit, then beside me....

2. Using the scriptures below, please list other duties of The Holy Spirit.

(A) Romans 5:5 – And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he had given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Fill our hearts with His love – again a perfect example of giving as God gave His only begotten Son, that's LOVE God the Father; His Son to create a direct connects between us and the Father; fills us with His LOVE by way of the Holy Spirit

(B)Romans 8:14 – For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

We, as children of God, because of our relationship and being Christians we have the privilege and responsibilities of being in a child of God – hence being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit in our witness as we bring glory to God!!

- (C) Romans 8:16 – For the Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.**

Joins and affirms us as God’s children; joint heirs; sharing in his glory and suffering

- (D) Romans 8:26 – And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in words.**

He intercedes and interprets for us

3. When the Holy Spirit controls a person, who is glorified, according to John 16:14?

He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. These things that were spoken in the Old Testament is now formed in the New Testament.

- 4. List the Characteristics of the Holy Spirit’s nature that make giving a priority with Him.**

Intercede, interprets, leads, guides, directs, convicts the world, brings things back to our remembrance, fills us with LOVE.....

Life Application

- 1. How does the giving nature of God the Father inspire you to give?**
- 2. How can you best apply to your life the example that Jesus set? Be specific.**
- 3. What does the Holy Spirit want to do in your life at this time?**
- 4. List ways you can cooperate as suggested in Acts 4:31, Ephesians 5:18-20, and Romans 12:1-2.**