

# God Loves A Cheerful Giver

By Franklin

Luke 7:36-50: THE PHARISEE and the SINNER

Read 36 - 38

Why did she do this?

- She believed Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah.
- She knew she was a sinner
- She knew HE WAS WORTHY of all she was **DOING AND GIVING**.
- Her convictions and beliefs empowered her actions and blinded her to the fear of what other people thought of her.

Read Vs. 39

What did the Pharisee believe?

- Jesus was an interesting person. A good teacher.
- The woman was a sinner and he was not.
- Jesus was not spiritually in tuned & certainly not a prophet

Read Vs. 40 - 43

- What can we learn from this?
- The more I realize how much I have been forgiven the greater my love for Jesus will be.

*(44) Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. (45) "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. (46) "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.*

This is a contrast of: (1) a hard heart and (2) extravagant worship of love and giving of self, time and treasure.

*(47) "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, **for she loved much; but HE WHO IS FORGIVEN LITTLE, LOVES LITTLE.**" (48) Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven." (49) Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" (50) And He said to the woman, "Your **faith** has saved you; go in peace."*

- She believed Jesus had authority to forgive sin.
- Faith & Works go together - when motivated by love.  
James 2: 20, 26
- The more we recognize how sinful we are the more our gratefulness & love for Jesus becomes.

The issue and the Most Important & Primary thing is ->

### OUR LOVE FOR JESUS !

And, our Love for Jesus > is determined by how clearly we see our sin & how clearly we see the cross of Jesus Christ and the LOVE that held HIM there for our forgiveness.

The Measure of our LOVE for Jesus determines:

1. How repentant we are.  
(how much sin we turn from and come to Jesus to forgive)
2. How bold we are before others (she was very bold)
3. How EXTRAVAGANT our worship is (her worship was exceedingly extravagant)
4. **How extravagantly we give**

THE DEGREE OF OUR LOVE is shown in -> **OUR GIVING**

YOU CAN TELL A GRATEFUL SINNER BY THE WAY THEY **GIVE** IN WORSHIP & APPRECIATION.

The DEGREE of our LOVE / OUR APPRECIATION for another is measured or seen by what we do!

Both for the Lord . . . and . . . for our wife / husband

**"GOD SO LOVED** the world that **HE GAVE . . . SON"**  
 LOVE --> GIVES --> THE Degree OF OUR LOVE is seen in  
 HOW and WHAT WE GIVE !  
 of our self > our time > our treasure

Matthew 6:21

for where **your treasure is**, there **your heart will be** also

The Heart of the Lord is with HIS Treasure --> PEOPLE!

The Value of HIS Treasure is determined by the price He  
 Paid to purchase.

Luke 19:10 **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to  
 save that which was lost. PEOPLE !**

Luke 15:3-7

So He told them this parable, saying, "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and **go after the one which is lost** until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, '**Rejoice** with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way, there will be more **joy in heaven** over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The HEART of Jesus is for PEOPLE and particularly THE LOST

- GIVING to Missions or to a Mission-minded church is PLEASING to the LORD.

A verse that is familiar to us and that we like to quote is:

- Philippians 4:19 *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

**WHY** will Jesus supply all we need?

This verse is spoken to those who had given a gift to support Paul's missionary work. But those who have not given cannot expect all their needs supplied according to His riches in glory.

Philippians 4:15-19 (15) *You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of GIVING and receiving but you alone; (16) for even in Thessalonica you SENT A GIFT more than once for my needs. (17) Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the **PROFIT WHICH INCREASES TO YOUR ACCOUNT.** (18) But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, WELL-PLEASING TO GOD. (19) And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

THE RICH YOUNG RULER said:

*"all the commandments I have kept from my youth."*

Mark 10:20

HE WAS OBEYING > BUT WHAT WAS HIS MOTIVATION?  
> WHAT DID HE LOVE?

Jesus said to him: **One thing you still lack, sell all that you possess, and distribute to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven, and come, follow Me.** *But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property.* Mark 10:22

❖ He loved the Word / he obeyed . . . but WHY?

❖ IT was A MATTER OF His HEART > WHAT he LOVED

1 Samuel 16:7

*God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the **LORD looks at the heart.***

Matthew 6:19-21 **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where **your treasure is, there your heart will be also.****

THE LORD IS CONCERNED ABOUT **YOUR HEART** . . .

- WHAT IS VALUABLE TO YOU
- WHAT YOU LOVE

IT'S ALL ABOUT >> THE **HEART** >> WHAT YOU **LOVE** >>>

Truth is:

**LOVE** is the **MOTIVATION** FOR WHAT we DO.

The Question is:

- What do you love?
- What is your treasure? . . . for there your heart is.

**"GOD SO LOVED the world that HE GAVE . . . SON"**

Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be given to you. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

❖ A Key To Prosperity !

Another verse we like is: 2 Corinthians 9:8

*"And God is able to make **all** grace abound to you, so that in **all** things at **all** times, **having all that you need**, you will abound in every good work." NIV*

This verse follows Vs. 7: *"God loves a cheerful giver."*

❖ It is the Lord's response to generous giving.

IT IS SPOKEN TO THOSE THAT HAVE GIVEN TO SUPPORT  
MISSIONARY WORK:

verses 7-15 from the NIV

*I really don't need to write to you about this **GIFT for the Christians in Jerusalem**. (2) For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to our friends in Macedonia that you Christians in Greece were ready to **send an offering** a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of them to begin helping. (3) But I am sending these brothers just to be sure that you really are ready, as I told them you would be, with **your money all collected**. I don't want it to turn out that I was wrong in my boasting about you. (4) I would be humiliated — and so would you — if some Macedonian Christians came with me, only to find that you still weren't ready after all I had told them! (5) So I thought I should send*

*these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But **I want it to be a willing gift, not one given under pressure.***

*(6) Remember this — a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. (7) You **must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give.** Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. **FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.** (8) And **God will generously provide all you need.** Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (9) As the Scriptures say, "Godly people give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will never be forgotten." (10) For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you. (11) Yes, **you will be enriched** so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God. (12) So two good things will happen — the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanksgiving to God. (13) You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your **generosity to them will prove that you are obedient** to the Good News of Christ. (14) And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful **grace of God shown through you.** (15) Thank God for his Son — a gift too wonderful for words!*

Example: Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram,  
*Go forth from your country, (**obey**) . . . **And I will bless you . . . and you will be a blessing.***

We are blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.  
If we do not GIVE the blessings away to others we are not being a good steward of HIS Blessings and they will decrease.

Genesis 22:12-18 THE OFFERING OF ISAAC

*He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, . . . for now I know that you fear God, since you have not **withheld your son**, your only son, from Me." . . . Abraham called the name of that place **The LORD Will Provide.** "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and **have not withheld your son**, your only son, indeed **I will GREATLY bless you,**"*

THE MORE ABRAHAM OBEYED & GAVE OF HIS TREASURE ->  
THE MORE THE LORD'S BLESSINGS INCREASED!

- ❖ The measure of our blessing is determined by the measure of our giving.
- ❖ And the measure of our giving is determined by the measure of our love?

Malachi 3:8-11 CONCERNING GIVING, THE LORD SAID:  
 Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, How do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you- because you are robbing me. **Bring the whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. **Test me** in this, says the LORD Almighty, and **see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.** I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the LORD Almighty. NIV

TITHING is NOT part of the Old Testament Law.

- As the covenant and promises to Abraham were 400 years before the law, and were not part of the law (Galatians 3:17), so was tithing. And this command still stands today.
- Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1-2) out of a grateful and appreciative heart.
- "Abraham is the father of all who believe". Romans 4:11
- For New Testament Believers, the Old Testament is: ". . . an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 Corinthians 10:11
- Joshua 6:17-19, 24; 7:1, 11-13 Please Read.

This is a very important principle. It demonstrates the Truth of:

Proverb 3:9-10

*Honor the LORD from your wealth and from THE **FIRST** of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.* NASU

1 Corinthians 4:2-3 *it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy*

This truth is brought out in: Matthew 25:14-30: *For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called **his own slaves** and **entrusted his possessions to them**.*

- The LORD has entrusted His possessions to us: Genesis 1:28; Revelation 5:9 (His most prized possession)
- Stewardship means that you are taking care of someone else's possessions as if they were your own.

1 Corinthians 4:7 *What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own? NLT*

*(15) To one he gave **five talents**, to another, **two**, and to another, **one**, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.*

- His slaves were not equal in their ability as stewards. Some were more talented or experienced than others.
- A talent, in those days was \$1,000 in silver. It's buying power today would be about \$2,000,000.

*(16) Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and **gained five more talents**. (17) In the same manner the one who had received the two talents **gained two more**. (18) But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and **hid his master's money**.*

*(19) Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and **settled accounts** with them.*

- 1 Corinthians 3:8-15; 9:16-27

*(20) The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have **gained five more talents**.' (21) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

*(22) Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have **gained two more talents**.' (23) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'*

*(24) And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. (25) 'And **I was afraid**, and went away and **hid your talent** in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'*

*(26) But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. (27) 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received **my money back with interest**. (28) 'Therefore **take away** the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'*

*(29) For to everyone who has, **more shall be given**, and he will have an **abundance**; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (30) Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. NASU*

This parable ends by changing from a discussion on what we do with the earthly talents given to us, to an exceedingly more serious matter of what we do with the truth given to every man of the One True God (Romans 1:18-23).

#### Galatians 6:6-10

*The one who is taught the word is to **share all good things** with the one who teaches him. (7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap**. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) Let us not lose heart in doing good, for **in due time we will reap** if we do not grow weary. (10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

- **WHATEVER** you sow you **WILL** reap (anger, unforgiveness, love, money).
- If you **DO NOT SOW** you **WILL NOT REAP**

I asked a person if their business was good. They answered, "*my tithes and offerings are in the ground.*" Meaning, they had given money to the LORD and HIS work, their seed was planted, in the ground, and the person knew blessings were coming. Excellent faith.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

- Seed must be planted. Put into the ground – out of our hand – out of our reach – we cannot control what happens then – how long it will take - BUT the PROMISE is “it bears much fruit.”

Luke 8:5-8

*The SOWER went out TO SOW HIS SEED; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. (6) Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. (7) Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. (8) Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great. As He said these things, He would call out, He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*

- Not all seed sown will produce a crop
- We MUST be Very Careful about where we sow or give or spend our money.
- If you want the LORD to bless and multiply your seed sown you MUST give it where HE, the Master directs. It is HIS seed / money anyway. We are just faithful, obedient stewards.

2 Corinthians 9:7-15

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.

- It is your decision as to how much you give
- You must give because you love the LORD JESUS and what HE has done for you.
- And when you give this way . . .

(8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that **always** having **all sufficiency in everything**, you may have an **abundance** for every good deed; (9) as it is written,

"HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

(10) Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will **supply** and **multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest** of your righteousness; (11) you will be **enriched in everything for all liberality**, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. (12) For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. (13) Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God **for your obedience** to your confession of the gospel of Christ **and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all**, (14) while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. (15) Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Luke 6:38

**Give**, and it **will be given to you**. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by **your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return**.

Our Father is a Giver (John 3:16) we are His children, we should be like Him. We should be Givers.

Giving is the 'key' that opens the windows of heaven for blessings to flow down to us.

You hold the key to your future prosperity.

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