

## **THE GOOD IN YOUR HAND**

### Proverbs 3:27-28

Today we'll consider some lessons about generosity as we focus on the good in your hand.

#### **I. WHAT DOES GOD COMMAND?**

##### A. THE ACTIONS

1. Prohibitions
  - a. Do not withhold good (27)
  - b. Do not delay giving (28)
2. Stated positively: Give as soon as possible

##### B. THE RECIPIENT

1. Consideration: Who is the one "to whom it is due?"
2. Conclusion: Your neighbor is the one to whom it is due (see v. 28)
  - We are required to love our neighbor - Romans 13:8-10Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. <sup>9</sup> For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of *the* law.

#### **II. WHAT DOES GIVING GOOD LOOK LIKE?**

##### A. DOING MORE THAN REQUIRED - Matthew 5:41-42

And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

##### B. SEEING AND MEETING NEEDS - I John 3:16-18

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. <sup>17</sup> But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

### C. GIVING WHAT YOU HAVE - II Corinthians 8:1-4

Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

### D. ACTING IN FAITH - James 2:14-17

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? <sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

## III. WHO DEMONSTRATED GOOD GIVING?

### A. SOME EXAMPLES

1. Job's Generosity - Job 29:12-16
2. Mary's Oil - Mark 14:3-9
3. Dorcus' Sewing - Acts 9:36-39

### B. OBSERVATIONS

1. They gave in a timely manner
2. If not give promptly, the gifts would have lost their impact and significance

## IV. HOW CAN WE BE GOOD GIVERS?

### A. BE SENSITIVE - James 1:27

This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

### B. BE POSITIVE - Acts 3:2-6

And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. <sup>4</sup> And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!"

**C. BE PREPARED - Ephesians 4:28**

Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have *something* to share with him who has need.

**D. BE CREATIVE - Mark 2:1-4**

And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. <sup>4</sup> And being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying.

**CONCLUSION:****May God help us to be good at giving good from our hands**

Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.  
- Proverbs 3:3-4

All Scripture is from The New American Standard Bible - Updated  
Copyright 1995 The Lockman Foundation